

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
FATTY BASEHORE, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "IDYLL" NOLTE  
"MORNING FRELUDE" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 123 "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"  
\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER,  
WE HAVE ERRED AND STRAYED FROM THY WAYS LIKE LOST SHEEP.  
WE HAVE FOLLOWED TOO MUCH THE DEVICES AND DESIRES OF OUR  
OWN HEARTS. WE HAVE OFFENDED AGAINST THY HOLY LAWS. WE  
HAVE LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE OUGHT TO HAVE DONE,  
AND WE HAVE DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE  
DONE. BUT THOU, O LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US. SPARE THOU  
THOSE, O GOD, WHO CONFESS THEIR SINS. RESTORE THOU THOSE  
WHO ARE PENITENT, ACCORDING TO THY PROMISES DECLARED UNTO  
MANKIND IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AND GRANT, O MOST  
MERCIFUL FATHER, FOR HIS SAKE, THAT WE MAY HEREAFTER LIVE A  
GODLY, RIGHTEOUS AND SOBER LIFE, TO THE GLORY OF THY HOLY  
NAME. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 30: 11-20

HYMN No. 126 "THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "BIG DREAMS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE"

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE CANTABILE" SIMONE

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 299 "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" BEEBE

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MR. & MRS. ROBERT TAIT TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT, JOHN  
REDMAN, DANIEL BOSKO AND ROBERT KNAUER.

MR. & MRS. HOWARD BOLAM WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE  
DOOR TODAY.

MRS. JOHN REDMAN, LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE  
WILL BE IN NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY - BCMH; MRS. CHARLES  
(ELEANOR) MCWILLIAMS - GROVE CITY HOSPITAL.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
OUR OLD FRIEND - TOM RAIMONDI.

TODAY - 2:00 P.M. - ALL PRESIDENTS, OR REPRESENTATIVE  
OF EACH ORGANIZATION WILL MEET IN THE UNDERCROFT TO  
MAKE UP THE NEW CALENDAR FOR THE COMING YEAR FOR THE  
YEARBOOK. THE MEETING IS IMPORTANT - PLEASE PLAN TO  
ATTEND - BRING A CALENDAR.

TONIGHT - 7-9 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY FRUGH CIRCLE

ARC WILL HOLD A BOWLING PARTY ON THE 18TH OF JAN.

AT FAMILY LANES FOR 7:00 SHARP.

TUES. - BOARD MEETING OF WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT 10:00

THURS. - 7:15 - GOLDEN CIRCLE WILL ENTERTAIN FRIEND-  
SHIP CLUB OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN THE UNDER-  
CROFT. (REGULAR MEETING NIGHT ON 16 WILL BE CANCELLED.)

THE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE FOR REV. LINK

TELEPHONE: 352-1103

ADDRESS: 153 KECK ROAD, SARVER, PENNA. 16055

ALL ORGANIZATIONS PLEASE TURN YOUR REPORTS IN TO BEA  
TAIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE HAD SUCH A GOOD RESPONSE LAST SUNDAY FOR FLOWERS,  
ONLY MARCH 17 AND 31 ARE OPEN UP THRU JUNE.

ART SNYDER, ROE THOMPSON  
RAY COVERT, MRS. WILLIAM HANCOCK, F. Y.  
CHANDLER, BEA TAIT

2/

If asked R. Cooper dreams, choir to sing perfectly  
If asked Mrs. Collins dreams, to use 10 talented  
ingers to play organ perfectly in worship of God  
Ask any person of cong. involved in its work what  
dream is, & will tell to do best job.  
Martin Luther King in Wash. speech said, "I have a  
dream."

He not only one, I have dream too.  
My dream about this cong, & church.  
I have dream one day I will see church overflowing  
each Sunday  
I have dream majority of cong, involved in its  
work & not just a few.  
I have dream that all cong. will tithe & give  
rightful 10% to the Lord.  
I have dream that influence of this church will  
be felt & known thruout all Butler & County,  
& surrounding areas.

Big Dreams? Sure they are, but can come true.

Have u ever approached Butler from Rte 8 North or  
Rts 68, or S. Main at night?  
If u have u know what I talking about, when say  
looks like miniature Xmas village under tree.  
Really beautiful, lites each house.

Coming in Butler several times, seeing lites of all  
houses reminded me of story of Moses & Israelites  
& speech to them.

In minds eye I looking out over city & thinking of  
dream & vision of Moses.  
I thot of Moses looking over Butler at nite & saying,  
(Text, Deut 30:19)

Thot of each individ. house & occupants.  
Wondered in mind how many never heard of Jesus C.  
Wondered how many go bed each nite, & put out lite  
I am seeing, only to lie down in bed after another  
day of not finding rest for that longing in hearts

Wondered how many arise next day & search for peace  
that cannot come except thru Christ.

Wondered how many these people never reached, not  
because not enuf churches, but simply because effort  
not made.

Is my biggest dream, to reach the unreached of  
Butler & surrounding area.

### "Big Dreams!"

Deut. 30:19, "I call heaven and earth to witness  
inst you this day, that I have set before you  
life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose  
life that you and your descendants may live."

In 30th chap. of Deut read of Moses speaking to Israel  
Standing on edge of promised land  
Moses at point where cannot go over.  
He not permitted to go with them  
He is instructing them in what they must do.

But more than this, is telling them must make dreams  
come true  
"This day you longed for, planned for, yarned for,  
"I call heaven and earth, etc.

Moses not just looking at Jordan and distant horizon  
but is looking upon future horizon.  
He is seeing visions not seen by them  
He is seeing big dreams, & dreams can become real  
He is seeing happiness & joy if willing follow God

Choice Moses is offering is life centered on God  
Nice big dream, perhaps ridiculed, scoffed, laughed  
Can picture some cynical Israelites in background,  
"Get him, boy talk about a snow job, why he isn't  
even going across & he telling us of dreams of his.

No evidence to support my thinking, but if look at  
results of their history, could draw conclusion quite  
a few of number unwilling to dream with leader.

Let if fellow going to dream, ~~must~~ may as well dream  
big

Down history, many dream big.  
Edison, Beethoven both deaf, yet heard music beyond  
comprehension of others with good ears.  
Luther afflicted with serious physical illnesses,  
yet never stopped from writing & telling of love  
of God.

But each had dreams, big dreams, & these dreams  
motivated them & caused them to accomplish things  
they did.

Do you have dreams?

I hope so.

I am sure if I asked what dreams are, would get  
varied answers.



May sound impossible, & many maybe think is  
 But with prayer, with work, with planning, & help of  
 God can be done.

But takes vision.

Solomon in Proverbs, "Where there is no vision, the  
 people perish

U & I must catch the visions God has for us.

I firmly believe God leading me this direction & this  
 my vision

But must become vision of all of you

For me to only have the visions is to invite no  
 spiritual attainment & invite stagnation.

We all know this is one of our problems.

It is no secret & we must know it.

We are on dead center & ~~must~~ unable move rt or left

It is task of not only me, but of all of us to get  
 the momentum going again

Past Wed. Church Council voted & approved sending  
 Pastor & layman to week long school of Evangelism in  
 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in May.

This not vacation, but program that could very easily  
 change the entire complexion of this church.

We need to all pray for Pastor & a layman as they  
 endeavor to become involved in a vital program as this

But May, a few months away. We will not waste these  
 precious days awaiting May.

I have some ideas, & will implement them in a few  
 months.

But again, must stress a vision to succeed.

I cannot do all of the thinking & planning. If have  
 any suggestions, please see me, or turn into office.  
 Or call me & make arrangements to consult with you.

Do not hesitate to contact me & let's arrange to get  
 together.

Past week visited shut-ins with Rev. Cooper. This  
 enjoyable, but made me aware of need for home visits

This will do, but need prayers & support.

My prayer along with my dreams is that we as a cong.  
 as a people, can catch the vision of a vital, alive,  
 growing, worshiping, God fearing, Bible believing  
 working church of Jesus Christ, here at St. Paul's.  
 Our prayers daily, added to mine can make this real-  
 ity. Let us catch the vision of big dreams.

(Text Deut. 30;19

"Big Dreams!"

Text: Deuteronomy 30:19,

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." R.S.V.

Proverbs 29:18,

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

In the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy we read of Moses speaking to the Israelites. They are standing on the edge of the promised land. Moses has reached the point at which he must stop. He has been told by God that he will not be permitted to cross over the Jordan with them. So he is instructing them in what they must do.

But more than this he is telling them that they are about to make ~~true~~ their fondest dream come true. He is telling them in effect; "this is the day all of you have longed for, and planned for so long and hard. This is the big dream about to come true." He says, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."

Moses is looking not just across the Jordan to the land on the otherside that can be seen. His eyes are set upon the future horizon, where he can see their life being lived in peace and happiness, or in sorrow and sadness. He is seeing a vision that is not being seen by his people. He is seeing big dreams, and those dreams can become a reality for all of them, but only if they are willing to choose to follow the Lord.

The choice of life that Moses is offering is to live the life that is centered upon God. It is a nice big dream that I am sure probably met with acceptance by some, but was ridiculed and laughed about by many others. I can picture some of the cynical fellows among these Israelites, standing in the background while Moses is making this speech, and poking one another and saying, "Get him. Boy talk about giving us a snow job, why he isn't even going across with us and he is telling us of these big dreams of his." Now there is no evidence to support my thinking, but if we look at the results that are evident by their turning from God throughout the remainder of their history, we can very well believe that there were quite a few of their number who were unwilling to dream with their leader.



But if a fellow is going to dream, he may as well dream big, it doesn't cost any more. Down through history many men have dreamed big dreams. We could name many of them. Edison and Beethoven were two men who were deaf, and yet they heard and made music beyond the comprehension of others with good ears. Martin Luther was afflicted with serious physical illnesses, and yet this never stopped him from writing and telling of the love of God.

But each one had dreams, big dreams, and it was those dreams that motivated them and cause them to accomplish the things they did. Do you have dreams? Do you have big dreams? I hope so. I am sure that if I were to ask any of you what your dreams are I would get many answers. If we were to ask Ralph Cooper what his dreams are, he would probably tell us, "to have his choir sing in perfect pitch and harmony. To sing like the very angels of God, lifting their hearts and their voices in praise to Him." If we were to ask Mrs. Collins what her dreams were, she would probably tell us, "to use her ten talented fingers to play the organ perfectly in helping to lead the worship of God.

~~Mart~~ Ask any person of this congregation who is involved in doing any work in it what his or her dream is, and they will tell you it is to do the very best job they can at whatever they are doing. Martin Luther King in his famous speech in Washington D.C. said, "I have a dream."

He is not the only one to have a dream, for I have one too, My dream concerns this congregation, and this church. I have a dream that one day I will see this church filled to overflowing every Sunday. I have a dream that the majority of the congregation will be involved in the work of this church and not just a handful. I have a dream that all of the congregation will be tithing and giving the 10% to the Lord that is rightfully due Him from each of us. I have a dream that the influence of this church will be felt and known throughout all of Butler and Butler County and the counties adjacent to it us.

Big dreams? Sure they are, but they can come true. Have you



ever approached Butler from Route 8 North at night? Or from Route 68, or South Main Street at night? If you have you know what I am talking about when I say that it looks like a miniature village that should be placed under a Christmas tree somewhere. With all of the lights twinkling and burning in each house, it is really beautiful.

But coming into Butler several times, and seeing the lights of all the houses, reminded me of this story of Moses and his speech to the Israelites. In my mind's eye I was looking out over the city and thinking of the dream, of the vision that Moses had. I thought of Moses standing looking at Butler at night and saying to the city, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." I thought of each individual house and of its occupants. I wondered in my mind how many of the people in many of those homes have never heard of Jesus Christ. I wondered how many of them go to bed each night and put out that light that I was seeing, to lie down to sleep after another day of not finding what they had need of to satisfy that restless longing in their hearts. And how they would arise the next day to greet another day of searching for the peace that cannot come except through Jesus Christ.

I wondered how many of these people had never been reached, not because we do not have enough churches, but simply because the effort has not been made.

This is my biggest dream, to reach the unreached of Butler and the surrounding area. It may sound impossible and many of you may think it is, but with prayer, and planning, and work, it can be done. But it takes a vision to do it. Solomon tells us in Proverbs, that, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." You and I must catch the visions, that God has for us. I firmly believe that God has been leading me in this direction, and this is my vision. But it must become the visions of all of you as well. For me to have the vision only, is to invite no growth, no

spiritual attainment, and to have instead stagnation. We all know that this is one of our problems here at this time. It is no secret, and there is no sense believing that it is. We are on dead center and are unable to move right or left. It becomes the task of not only me, but the task of all of us to get the momentum going again.

This past Wednesday evening your elected Church Council took what could very well be the most vital step that could be taken in this direction. The council voted and approved the sending of the pastor and a layman to attend a week long school on Evangelism in Fort Lauderdale Florida in May. This program is one that has been used in churches throughout the nation, and is one that could change the entire complexion of this church. We need to pray for God's blessing upon the pastor and a layman as they endeavor to become involved in a vital program such as this.

But May is a few months away, and so we are concerned with the months until then. Well, let me assure you these months will not be wasted in just waiting for the school session in May. I have some ideas and I intend to implement a few in these next few months. But again I stress that we need a vision in order to succeed. We cannot just let the pastor do all of the thinking for us, nor can we expect him to have all of the answers. If any of you have suggestions that you would like to make to better our church in any way, please submit them to me or to Bea Tait or turn them in to the office. If you would like to consult with me about anything that may improve our church, please do not hesitate to contact me, and let's arrange to talk about it.

This past week I spent two days with Rev. Cooper serving Communion to the shut-ins. It was an enjoyable two days, and in many respects made me more acutely aware of the need for visiting in the homes. I intend to instigate a program of home visitation, and strive to reach our members in this way. Again, you can help by your prayers, and your concern.

My prayer, along with my dreams is that we as a congregation and as a people, can catch the vision of a vital, alive, growing, worshiping,



God fearing, Bible believing, working church of Jesus Christ, here at St. Paul's. Your prayers daily added to mine can make this become a reality.  
each  
Let us catch the vision of big dreams. "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY      JANUARY 13, 1974  
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PATTY BASEHORE, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "Nocturne"      FIELD

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 1 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL FATHER, WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONFESS BEFORE THEE; OUR SINFUL NATURE PRONE TO EVIL AND SLOTHFUL IN GOOD; AND ALL OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND OFFENSES. THOU ALONE KNOWEST HOW OFTEN WE HAVE SINNED; IN WANDERING FROM THY WAYS; IN WASTING THY GIFTS; IN FORGETTING THY LOVE. BUT THOU, O LORD, HAVE PITY UPON US; WHO ARE ASHAMED AND SORRY FOR ALL WHEREIN WE HAVE DISPLEASED THEE. TEACH US TO HATE OUR ERRORS; CLEANSE US FROM OUR SECRET FAULTS; AND FORGIVE OUR SINS FOR THE SAKE OF THY DEAR SON. AND O MOST HOLY AND LOVING FATHER; HELP US WE BESEECH THEE; TO LIVE IN THY LIGHT AND WALK IN THY WAYS; ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 115

HYMN No. 476 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "SHOW ME!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"      STAINER

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE"      MARTIN

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE "PONTIFICAL"      HIGGINS

----- \* CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. RAYMOND COVERT IN MEMORY OF "GRANDPARENTS".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*MONT MACKINNEY, STEVE

VARGO, WALLY FEDER AND CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. HARRY FRY WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY AND MR. PAUL HARPER

BCM/H. MRS. CHARLES McWILLIAMS - BASHLINE HOSP.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 181.

THURS. - 10:30 - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE - ANNUAL TUREEN

LUNCHEON AT THE HOME OF MRS. SANDY SHEPPECK.

MONDAY - 7:00 - CHURCH AND MINISTRY AND OFFICERS WILL MEET TO SET UP COMMITTEES FOR YEARBOOK.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS. HARRY WEETER.

FRIDAY - 7:00 SHARP - THE ARC WILL HOLD A BOWLING PARTY AT FAMILY LANES.

RECEPTION FOR REV. AND MRS. RALPH LINK AND FAMILY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE THIS MORNING IN THE UNDERCROFT. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME AND WELCOME THEM TO OUR CHURCH - WE ARE GLAD THEY ARE HERE.

THE CONGREGATIONAL DINNER IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 3RD, AT 5:30. WE EXPECT A GOOD ATTENDANCE SINCE ALL THE BIG FOOTBALL GAMES WILL BE OVER. THE YEARBOOKS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THIS TIME AND THERE WILL BE A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING TO GO OVER THE BOOK. OTHER SURPRISES ARE IN STORE - SO COME OUT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE OTHERS FROM YOUR CHURCH.

Welcome all visitors; sign book-KATHY GROS

Will not greet this AM after ben. have bap' sms.

No YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

man cannot create from scratch like God  
3rd chap Exodus commissioning of Moses by God  
Moses asks God, "If I come to the people of Israel  
and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent  
me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?'  
what shall I say to them?"

Moses is asking, Who are you God?

God answers, "I am who I am."

By stating I AM, God leaves no room for doubt who

He is the omnipotent, all powerful  
Supreme being to end all supreme beings.

He tells Moses, "Tell my people that I am has sent  
you to them."

This implies the authority not to be questioned.

I AM enuf of answer for people.

This who God is, THE I AM.

The ALL IN ALL, God & creator in full author & maj  
esty. The authority over all & in all.

This may not answer all quest, but partial explan  
to anyone say Show Me.

EXAMPLE: COLLEGE XPIAN & ATHEISTS

What is God.

When God gave commands Moses said, "I am the Lord  
your God," went on to say jealous God, & not have  
other Gods before Him.

Does not want us to share allegiance with us  
Wants us love Him, serve Him, worship Him. only

Deut 6:4 & 5, Orthodox Jewish prayer Shema,

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and you  
shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Perhaps we recog as new command given Js in NT

In any event prayer remind worshiper what God is,  
and what duty to Him is.

I personally not believe many repetit prayers.

have tendency become lip service, minds off elsewhere  
What do tonite, is roast burn, what wear afternoon  
Not worship, merely robot or automaton.

Jews had good idea with prayer, if prayed sincerely  
& earnestly can help overcome other gods, like money  
greed, selfishness, envy, cars, stocks, bonds etc.  
Many gods can creep in if not careful

Js said God spirit, they worship, must worship spirit  
not only what God, but how come to Him. & truth

Can only have communion with God when in harmony

"Show Me!"

Text: Psalm 115:2,

"Why should the nations say, 'Where is our God?'"

Missouri license plates, "Show me state."

People supposedly unbleieving, must see to believe.

Questionable, whether true or not

People from Missouri, no more unbelieving than other  
states, nations, or people biblical times.

115th Psalm David's answer to unbelief of his day.

Surrounding nations pagan and unbleieving

Text above.

Show me your God. Let me see so I can believe.

People today asking same thing

peop want answers, want proof

no longer can pass off serious quest, with out  
dated, outmoded answer God is in heaven.

David did this, & I sure peop of his day wanted  
further proof.

We live age of enlightenment, no longer able  
satisfy SS answers.

peop want to know.

7 or 8 yrs God is dead controversy is

Butler Businessmen billboard, Our God alive sorry xxx  
about yours.

traveled Mercer Easter Sun. church bulletingboard

"God is alive today."

If theory did noth else, made peop aware those  
standing sidelines saying, Show Me, let me see Go

Every church fathers to overcome & counteract doubts,  
misgivings, heresies, formulated Apost & Nicene Creeds

Each Sunday repeat words, I believe in God Father

Almighty maker of heaven and earth.

This affirm should enable us answer quest. exist of  
should be able defend belief

Naturally not able answer all quest, but can come  
up with pretty good answers Who God, What God,

Where God, when someone say, Show Me.

Who is God asked by man since creation

Man always worshiped something, someone as creator  
Most pagan rel. worship many gods.

(Man and Jew worship one God

In Gen. read, In beg. God crested heaven & earth.

This show God creator

God create from nothing, man cannot, must take  
existing elements & mixes t

4/  
Does all this prove where God is?  
Does all this prove Who He is?  
Is all of this prove what He is?

Of course not.

The real importance lies in not who, what & where of  
i, but the question, "Do I know Him?"

All questions answered someday when we go to be with  
Him

But in meantime, He as near as breath  
We can take Him with us wherever we go, but must  
want him in our lives before this is possible.

The only way to answer the question of Show Me, is by  
our individual lives.

It all comes down to the simple fact of,  
"Can anyone see God in me?"

And this is question all must ask of selves personally  
as we look to God and say to Him, "Show Me Lord, that  
You are in me, and let me show You to others."

3/  
Cannot be of unlike spirit & be in touch  
Cannot be evil & expect blessing  
Must try be righteous & pure, then can come to God  
& come to us

When man strives do God's will, then man can meet God  
God knows we sinful by nature, & not perfect as He  
If try be right, can have communion & know with us

Story Nancy small girl, out walk, night look at stars  
Point with one little finger, "Is God up there?"  
How tell 5,6 yr old in words he, she understand?

Tried tell simply, God in here, heart.

Eyes big, "Is He really Daddy?"

Had tell her cannot see but dwells in us more than  
sky  
To question where God, He here in town  
in this church, & in us.

Maybe shock find God in some peop we know, perhaps  
can be seen if we look for Him not

Peop Js time wanted know bout God

They asked He answer if see Him, seen God.

This may been consolation those people, but what of  
millions before, or millions after have not seen Js  
To believe unseen very difficult to say least.

This what call faith.

This what asked believe, believe in God.

We accept this many areas of our lives

Can any tell me what electricity looks like? & is it  
really in wires heat water, light lites, cook food?

Of course can't, but does that mean not there?

Just grab bare wire & find out.

To explain is impossible. So with God

Where He is not all that important.

Important thing is we believe.

Russian cosmonauts returned orbiting, no see God  
Col John Glenn on orderliness of space, "Could all of  
this have just happened? Was this an accident that  
someone tossed up a bunch of flotsam and jetsam, and  
it suddenly started making these orbits of its own  
accord? I cannot believe that is true. I think this  
is a definite plan. This is one big thing in space  
that shows me there is a God, some power that put all  
of this into orbit and keeps it there. It wasn't  
just an accident."

He doesn't say he met God up there.

Or does he say he saw Him.

But he implies in all this he saw hand of God in  
sunrises & sunsets, looking at earth from vantage  
in space. This diff. between believe and unbelieve



### Show Me!

Text: Exodus 33:18 "Moses said, 'I pray Thee, show me Thy glory.'"

Perhaps you have seen the license plates of cars from Missouri, that proclaim, "The show me state." People from this state are supposedly more unbelieving and must be shown before belief sets in.

Whether this is true or not is questionable, but the people of Missouri are no different than the people of any other state, or any nation, nor in fact are we any different than the people of Biblical times when it comes to unbelief.

In the chapter preceeding the one which we read for Scripture, the people ~~understand~~ awaited the arrival of Moses from Mount Sinai and when he did not come back they implored Aaron to make them Gods to lead them from that place. So Aaron made a golden calf for them to worship. <sup>FOR THIS</sup> God wanted to destroy the people ~~for their sin~~, but Moses interceded for them and God spared them. Moses, berated the people for their sin and gathered those who wished to continue together again to resume their journey. During the absence of Moses the people had approached Aaron and had told him, "Show me, a God that I may see him and worship him. Show me that this journey is worth while and we will not all be utterly destroyed and doomed to die in this wilderness."

At the return of Moses he once again had to go to God and to ask for proof that he was God. Moses said, "I pray thee, show me thy glory." Time after time in the wanderings of the people of Israel the cry went up to God, "Show me thy glory, that I may believe it is you." Give us proof that you are who you say you are."

When Jesus arrived on the scene, the unbelief was still there. The Pharisees and the Sadducees came to him and asked for a sign from heaven. The answer given was that they could foretell the weather by the appearance of the sky and the wind and yet they asked for a sign. In all of his ministry people kept asking, "Are you the Messiah, the

promised one to deliver us?" Are you really the son of God? Even one of his disciples said, "Show me and I will believe."

To these doubts the Lord has answered time after time. To Moses he answered in person. To many others he answered through his ~~servants~~. The Psalmist writes, "He has shown his people the power of his works," and night unto night showeth knowledge". The prophet Micah writes, "He has showed you O man what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love ~~many~~ kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

The angel spoke at the birth of Christ, "And this shall be a sign to you, you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Jesus at the end of his ministry said that he would come again on the clouds and this would be ~~A~~ sign from God. Paul wrote, "And I will show you a still more excellent way," and "Behold I will show you a mystery." Each of the writers of the New Testament speak of Jesus as being shown to mankind as the Saviour by God.

Yet with all of this testimony from God, man still says today, "Show me!" Show me that there is such a thing as a God who cares about me. Prove to me that it was for me that Christ died and show me that because of me it was necessary.

So we go into the explanation of it, "Well you see a long time ago there were these two people that God first created and they were living in this wonderful garden, and this snake walks up to them and tempts them to do wrong." And the average man answers, "Oh sure, a snake that walked and we are sinners because of this." "Me a sinner. You must be joking. I come to church only to worship God and not because I am a sinner. Why that is impossible." And so the ~~old~~ age old quest continues of trying to make mankind realize that first, last and always we are sinners. Paul says, "We have all come short of the glory of God." Because of this it is very presumptuous for us to even stand here this

morning and to even imagine that we can be made righteous in the sight of God. But this is what ~~Christ~~ Christ did for us. He accepted our sin, our guilt, and he took it upon his sinless life and gave himself in sacrifice for us. This is what God did out of his extreme love for his creation, and yet we have the audacity to stand before him and ask for him to, "Show me!"

Norman MacLeod who was a minister to Queen Victoria, once remarked that he could sum up everything that religion meant to him in one sentence, "There is a Father in Heaven who loves us, a Brother Saviour who died for us, A Spirit who helps us to be good, and a Home where we shall meet at last."

I think that we have all probably seen the painting entitled "The Light of The World," at one time or another. It depicts Jesus, standing outside ~~a~~ a closed door, holding a lantern in one hand and knocking with the other. He is dressed in a white robe, and a crown of thorns encircle his head. There is the glow of a halo about his head. His eyes look as though they are seeing the present, but are also looking and seeing off into the future. All the details of the painting are in vivid perspective. The door is hanging on rusty hinges and is covered with thorny brambles of long years of growth, which is symbolic of the hearts of men.

But the ~~xxx~~ story behind the painting is that Holman Hunt the artist, after completing the painting was asked by a friend, why the door did not have ~~xx~~ a handle on it. To the inquirer it was a mistake the artist had made. But Mr. Hunt explained that had there been <sup>would</sup> a handle on the door Christ could have entered and there <sup>would</sup> have been no need for him to have knocked. <sup>no</sup> This was a door that could only be opened from the inside.

And Mr. Hunt was right. The salvation of every man depends not upon Christ, but upon the man himself. Each man must open the door of



his own heart to Jesus. I cannot do it for you and you cannot do it for me. If we are waiting for some opportune time to do it, or if we are waiting for some marvelous experience such as we read about and hear, we may wait forever. If we are waiting for Christ to burst ~~is~~ through the door of our hearts we are waiting in vain. Each one of us individually must open that door, and we must admit that we are the sinners Christ died for. We must ~~each one~~ realize that God showed his love through Christ, and when we stand back and say, "Show me" we are speaking the words of a fool, for God did indeed, "Show me" and all of mankind.

<sup>PAINTING</sup> Holman Hunt was not a devout believer in Christ when he started ~~this painting~~ The Light of The World. But when he finished it he wrote on the back of the canvas, for no one else to see, "Pass me not by, Lord." Through his artistry he found Christ, or was he found by Christ?

The jailer in the prison where Paul was being kept, asked the question, "What must I do to be saved?" And the answer Paul gave was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household. This is something that has somehow become circumvented in ~~many cases~~ the lives of many people and in the organized church itself. People are calling for the re-awakening of the church and the renewal of its members and in many instances those in the church do not know what to do or where to turn.

(Illustration by late Cardinal Richard Cushing on Renewal)

This is what must come about in our lives and in the life of the church if we are to be the proper people of God. The Saviour of all must be lifted up in every church and in every heart of every member of the church. WE must each one come to the realization that we are sinners, <sup>AND</sup> ~~but that~~ through Christ we can have forgiveness, but this forgiveness is not an automatic thing and requires our confession of it to him.



"Show Me!"

Text: Psalm 115:2, "Why should the nations say, 'Where is our God?'"

Perhaps you may have seen the license plates of cars from Missouri and may have noticed the slogan, "The show me state." People from this state are supposedly more unbelieving and must be shown before belief sets in. Whether this is true or not is questionable. But the people from Missouri are no different than the people of any other state, or of any other nation, nor are any of us any different than the people of biblical times when it comes to unbelief.

~~David writes in the 115th Psalm:~~

In the 115th Psalm we read of David's answer to the unbelief of his day. The nations surrounding ~~the~~ the Israelites were pagan nations and they must have questioned the existence of God many times in many different ways. Thus David asks the question, "Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'" In other words they are saying Show me your God. Let me see Him so I may believe."

People today are asking the same questions. We are living in an age of acute scepticism. People want answers. People want proof for things. No longer can we pass off serious questions with an outdated and outmoded answer such as God is in heaven, and expect people to swallow this with no other questions. David answered this way, and I am sure that the people of his day asked for further proof as well. This is an age of enlightenment and no longer may we satisfy the curious with Sunday School answers. People want to know.

About 7 or 8 years ago the church and church people were involved in the God is Dead controversy. Along about that time the Butler Businessmen had a billboard that proclaimed, "Our God is alive, sorry about yours." Perhaps some of you remember it. I can recall traveling to Mercer on an Easter Sunday, and seeing on a church bulletin board the words, "God is Alive Today." If this theory did nothing else, it made people aware that there are those who are standing on the sidelines saying, "Show me, let me see your God."

The early church fathers in order to overcome the serious doubts and misgivings of those outside the church as well as to counteract the



heresies within the church, formulated the Apostles and the Nicene Creed. Each Sunday we repeat the words, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth." Being able to make this affirmation, should enable any of us to be able to answer serious questioning of the existence of God. And indeed we should be able to defend our belief.

Naturally we cannot answer all questions in this realm, but we can come up with some pretty good answers as to Who God is, What God is, and where He is, when someone ~~asks~~ says, "Show Me."

Who is God has been asked by man since the dawn of creation. Man has always worshiped something or someone as the ruler of the universe and as the creator of everything. Most pagan religions have many gods which they worship and many are cruel and unloving. But the Christian and the Jew ~~alike~~ are alike in the respect that we believe in one God. We

read in Genesis, "In the beginning, God created heaven and earth." Then follows the remainder of the creation story. We know from this that God is a creator. In this realm we can separate God and man, for God can create out of nothing, and man can only take the elements and chemicals that are already in existence and from this make something. Man cannot create from scratch as God can.

In the 3rd chapter of Exodus, we read of the commissioning of Moses, by God to lead the people to the promised land. Moses questions God and says, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them??" In other words Moses is asking, "Who are you God?" And God answers, "I am who I am." By stating that He is the I Am, God leaves no room for doubt as to who He is. He is the omnipotent, the all powerful, the supreme being to end all supreme beings. He tells Moses, "Tell my people that I am has sent you to them." This implies that the authority is not to be questioned. That I Am should be enough of an answer to these people. This is who God is, He is the I Am. He is the all in all. The God and creator in full authority and majesty.

The authority over all and in all. Now this may not answer all of the questions or doubts about Who God is, but it is at least a partial explanation we can share with anyone who say, "Show Me."

What is God? When He gave the commandments to Moses, He said, "I am the Lord your God," and He went on to say that He was a jealous God, and we are to have no other God's before Him. He does not want to share us with any other allegiance. He wants us to love Him to honor Him and to worship Him, and rightly so,

In Deuteronomy 6:4 & 5 we find recorded a prayer that is used daily by the Orthodox Jews. "Hear O Israel the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might." Perhaps we recognize this as the new commandment that Jesus gave in the New Testament. But in any event this prayer is to remind the worshiper ~~that~~ what God is, and what his duty to him is.

I personally do not believe in too many repetitious prayers, because a steady repetition becomes merely a habit. A mere lip service, while our minds have drifted off somewhere or someplace else. Perhaps we begin to think what we are going to do tonight, or whether the roast is burning in the oven at home, or what shall I do this afternoon. This type of thing then ceases to be worship and merely becomes something done like a robot or an automaton.

I think the Jews had a very good idea with this prayer and if it is prayed sincerely and earnestly, can help us to overcome the other gods that can creep into our lives. The gods of money, of greed, of selfishness, of envy of others, gods of cars, or houses, or prestige or what have you. There are many gods that can come into our lives if we are not careful.

Jesus said, "God is a spirit and they who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth." He is telling us not only what God is, but how we must come to Him. We can only have communion with God, when



we are in harmony with Him. We cannot be of an unlike spirit and be in touch with Him. We cannot be evil and expect His blessing. We must try to be righteous and pure, and then we can come to God and He will come to us.

When man strives to do God's will, then man can meet God. God knows that we are sinful by nature and cannot be perfect as He is. But if we try to be right, we can have communion with God and He with us.

When Nancy was a small girl, we were walking around the yard in Renfrew one night. The night was one of those beautiful summer nights, where the sky was full of stars, and we were looking at them. She asked me in that simple and endearing way as only children can, "Daddy, is God really up there?", as she pointed with one of her little fingers. How do you tell a 5 or 6 year old child in words he or she can understand where God is? I tried to tell her as simply as possible that God is here, in your heart. She looked at me and her got real big and she said, "Is he really Daddy?" Well, I had to tell her that we could not really see Him, but He dwells in us more than He does in the sky. To the question where is God? we can answer that he is here in this town. He is here this morning, and He is here in us. Now this may come as ~~as~~ a shock because maybe we cannot picture God as dwelling in some people we know, and perhaps He isn't. But He can be seen if we look for Him.

The people of Jesus' time wanted to know about God. They asked Him, and He answered that if they saw Him, they had seen God, because He and the Father were one. This may have been some consolation for those people, but what of the millions who ~~have~~ lived before Jesus and never saw <sup>Jesus</sup> ~~him~~, and the millions who have lived since, and never saw Him? To believe in something you have never seen is very difficult to say the least. This is what we call faith. This is what we are asked to believe when we believe in God. Yet we accept this type of belief in many areas of our lives. Can any of you tell me what electricity looks like, and if it is really in wires that light lights, and heat water, and cook food? Of course you can't, but does

that mean it is not there? Just grab a bare wire and find out. But to explain it is impossible. So it is with God. Where He is is not all that important. The important thing is that we believe in Him.

When one of the Russian cosmonauts returned from orbiting the earth, he said that he had not seen God up there. Col. John Glenn ~~stated~~ commenting upon the orderliness of space said, "Could all of this have just happened? Was this an accident that someone tossed up a bunch of flotsam and jetsam, and it suddenly started making these orbits of its own accord? I cannot believe that's really true. I think this was a definite plan. This is one big thing in space that shows me there is a God, some power that put all of this into orbit and kept it there. It wasn't just an accident."

Now he doesn't say that he met God up there. Nor does he say that he saw Him. But he does imply in all of this that he saw the hand of God in the stars, in the sunrises and the sunsets, and looking at earth from his vantage point in space. This is the difference between a believer and a non-believer.

Does all of this prove where God is? Does it prove what He is? Does it prove who He is? Of course not. The real importance lies, not in the who, what and where of God, but in the question, "Do I know Him?" All of our questions concerning Him will be answered someday, when we each go to be with Him. But in the meantime He is as near as our next breath. We can take Him with us wherever we go, but we must want Him in our lives before this is possible.

The only way to answer the question of "Show Me," is by our individual lives. It all comes down to the simple fact of, "Can anyone see God in me?" And this is the question we must ask of ourselves, personally, as we look to God and say to Him, "Show Me, Lord, that you are in me, and let ~~others~~ me show You to others. Let us pray.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 20, 1974  
 REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
 BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE, - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "PRELUDE IN E-FLAT MINOR" BACH

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 21 "JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, FROM WHOM COMETH DOWN EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT; WE YIELD THEE PRAISE AND THANKS FOR ALL THY MERCIES. THY GOODNESS HATH CREATED US; THY BOUNTY HATH SUSTAINED US; THY FATHERLY DISCIPLINE HATH CHASTENED AND CORRECTED US; THY PATIENCE HATH BORNE WITH US; THY LOVE HATH REDEEMED US. GIVE US A HEART TO LOVE AND SERVE THEE, AND ENABLE US TO SHOW OUR THANKFULNESS FOR ALL THE GOODNESS AND MERCY THOU HAST CONFERRED BY GIVING UP OURSELVES TO THY SERVICE, AND CHEERFULLY SUBMITTING IN ALL THINGS TO THY BLESSED WILL. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 1:35-45

HYMN No. 261 "BEFORE THE CROSS OF JESUS"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "MR. CLEAN!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD" WOMEN'S CHORUS

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE" BEHR

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 271 "O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "POSTLUDE" NORDMAN

\*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. NICHOLAS NOWACH IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.

MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. RAYMOND COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 226.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. R. L. RICHEY-428; MR. PAUL

601-HARPER-434; MR. RAYMOND MILLER-434; MRS. BETTY

FILSON-359; MRS. MARY JANE WEISENSTEIN-567 -

(BABY GIRL). MRS. GOTTA-441

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ARE STILL IN NEED OF PLASTIC LIDS FROM MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE (ANY SIZE).

IF YOU HAVE ANY VASES YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE -

THEY ARE NEEDED AT THE BUTLER HOSPITAL. YOU MAY LEAVE THEM ON THE COUNTER IN THE KITCHEN AND THEY WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.

RESERVE - FEB. 3, - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER - 5:30 -

THE YEARBOOKS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THIS MEETING.

COME OUT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS FROM OUR CHURCH.

WE WELCOME THOSE VISITING WITH US TODAY. PLEASE SIGN THE GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - TOPITE 7:00 P.M.

Naaman goes back to Elisha & says 5:15

tries to give presents

At ~~Elisha~~ Elisha says 5:16

And Naaman tries to insist

So Naaman asks for 2 mules burden of earth 5:17

He promises will not worship other god except God of Israel

When worships Rimmon will only be lip service.

It was believed to worship God, must worship on soil of Israel.

So actually would be ON THE SOIL OF ISRAEL

Naaman left Syria, diseased, worried about station of life, about all of things may come to pass if diseased

Came to Israel seeking miracle

instead received injunction to do something seemed foolish.

Expected words be said over him, instead was xangered

1. that prophet did not come personally

2. told to do childish almost ridiculous thing

But when listened words of his servant, & took necessary steps, was healed

Isn't this required of you & me?

No substitute for old river Jordan

Modern man looks at hot springs many parts world.

Many go Lourdes France, many others shrine Canada

All seek healing some find, many do not.

Naaman conquered pride, stifled vanity

& proud soldier he was went & dipped in Jordan &

"Flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Still pride & vanity keeps modern Naaman from blessing received by ancient Syrian

If we can forget pride, & vanity, & put of intellectual attitudes, & critical looks at church, & go down into stream of life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed be restored like that of a little child, & we can become clean.

If each week bathe souls in worship of God

Dip into God's word, The Bible

spend honest time dipping into fervent prayer,

then miracle can happen for us as for Naaman

We tell criminal to come clean. perhaps as Christians to walk daily should say make clean breast of it, & God will make clean.

"Mr. Clean!"

Text: II Kings 5:14,

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Naaman commander of Syrian army of King Aram

Very courageous, held high esteem by king

Thru valor & courage Syria won over enemies

One thing wrong Naaman, he was leper

To be leper hindrance, & set person apart

automatically cut off from others

Naaman concerned with his disease

Syrian army captured Jewish girl in raid on Is. villa

She was servant of Naaman wife

In conversation said 5:3

Naaman wife told him, he tells king

king says, "Go, and I will send letter king of Israel"

Naaman goes, takes presents 5:5 about 80,000 dollars

presents letter to king.

letter read 5:6

King displeased with letter 5:7

king looked upon as divine, worker of miracles

Fortunately Elisha heard of king's dismay

Sends message to king and inquires why he upset,

Says, "send to me, that he may know prophet in Is."

5:8

Naaman drives up to door Elisha with servants & char.

Elisha does not come out, sends servant.

Servant tells Naaman, 5:10

Naaman angry because servant & not Elisha 5:11,12

Saying, Are not Damascus rivers as good as Jordan?

ancient story Mohammed as youth went Damascus in caravan.

Came to summit of Southern hills.

Saw view of oasis of Damascus, orchards, blossoms.

Wrapped face in mantle, turned away, said, "Man may enter only 1 paradise & that para. above."

Arabs called Damas, oasis "The garden of the world."

Naaman in rage because of treatment by Elisha

Servant explains, 5:13

5:14



Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing & found it.  
He stepped into Jordan a diseased man & stepped out  
as original Mr. Clean.

~~XX~~  
~~XX~~

Invitation for any not sure of relationship with  
Christ to see me in office after church.

Will be glad to speak to anyone about this

Let us come to the river Jordan which is Christ,  
and seek this cleansing in our lives.

"Mr. Clean!"

PR 121  
Sermon #3  
Ralph C. Link

Text: II Kings 5:14, "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." R.S.V.

Naaman was the commander-in-chief of the Syrian army during the days of King Aram. He was a very great man in his nation and was held in very high esteem by the king. It was through his valor and courage that Syria had won out over her enemies, But there was one thing wrong with Naaman, he was a leper. To be a leper was not only a hindrance to anyone, but in certain areas it automatically cut that person off from any contact with healthy people. So Naaman was concerned with his disease.

When the Syrian army had made a raid on a village of Israel, they had captured a little Jewish maid and brought her back to Syria. The maid was a servant of Naaman's wife. In a conversation one day with the wife, she remarked, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman's wife told him of this conversation and he in turn went to King Aram and related to him what the Jewish maid had said concerning his disease. King Aram told him, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman departed for Israel taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. The silver and gold amounted to approximately \$80,000. He arrived at the court of the king of Israel and presented there the letter sent by King Aram. The letter read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read this he rent his clothes, and began to pace the floor nervously. He said, "Am I God, to kill and make



alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?

Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

What he was really saying was that in ancient Israel the king was believed to have been divine, and he was looked upon as a miracle worker in the healing of sickness and disease. He was really asking, "Am I a prophet or a servant of God?," since the prophets at the time of this writing were the ones who did the miracle work of God. He was also suspicious that King Aram had tricked him, and if Naaman were not cured by him, then Aram would have an excuse to attack Israel.

But fortunately for the king of Israel, Elisha heard of the arrival of Naaman and of the king's dismay over his visit. Elisha sent a message to the king and inquired why he was so upset, and why he rent his clothes in dismay. He wrote, "Let him come to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman drives up to the door of Elisha with his horses and chariots. But Elisha does not come out to meet him, but sends one of his messengers instead. The messenger delivers the message from Elisha which was, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." This angers Naaman and as he speeds away from Elisha's gate he mutters, "Behold, I thought he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"

He is asking, "What's so special about the river Jordan? The rivers of Damascus are much calmer and prettier."

There is an ancient story that Mohammed in his youth went to Damascus in a caravan, but when he came to the summit of the southern

hills and saw the unexpected view of the oasis of Damascus, with its orchards and its blossoms, he turned away, wrapping his face in his mantle, saying that man may enter one paradise and that paradise was above. The Arabs called the Damascus oasis "The garden of the world."

So Naaman was in a rage because of how he had been treated by Elisha. But one of his servants came to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it?" "How much rather, then when he says to you, 'Wash and be Clean'?"

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

After this he returned to Elisha and in his presence said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But Elisha in refusing it said, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." But Naaman insisted, and Elisha still refused to accept payment of any kind. Naaman then makes a very strange request when he says, "If not, I pray you, let there be given to your servant two mules burden of earth; for henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offerings or sacrifice to any god but the Lord." He tells Elisha that when he goes into the house of worship of the god Rimmon back home in Syria, he will merely be paying token worship to that god, but will actually only worship the true God of Israel. Elisha tells him, "Go in peace."

What is really taking place in the latter part of this story is that it was believed by the people of the lands surrounding Israel, that God could only be worshipped on the land of Israel. So if they returned to Syria or another country and took some of the soil of



Israel, they could worship the God of Israel, since in effect they would be doing so on soil from Israel.

Naaman had left Syria a diseased man. A man worried about his health, about his station in life, and about all of the things that might come to pass if he remained diseased. He came to Israel seeking a miracle, but instead he received an injunction to do something that seemed foolish. He expected to receive some great formulation by the prophet of God. He expected to have words said over him to heal him, and was angered first of all that the prophet did not come to him personally, and secondly because what he was told was so childish it was almost ridiculous.

But when he listened to the words of one of his servants, and took the necessary requirement for healing, he was in fact healed. And isn't this what is required of you and <sup>ME</sup> ~~us~~? There is no substitute for the old river Jordan. Modern man can look at hot springs in many parts of the world for healing and be disappointed. He may go to Lourdes, France or to that shrine in Canada, seeking healing and never find it. Naaman conquered his pride, stifled his vanity, and proud soldier that he was, went down and dipped seven times into the Jordan, and "His flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

It is still pride and vanity that keeps many a modern Naaman from receiving the blessing that came to that ancient Syrian. If we can forget our pride and our vanity, and put off our intellectual attitudes, and our critical looks at the church and go down into the stream of the life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed be "restored like the flesh of a little child, and we can become clean." If each week we can bathe our souls in a real worship in God's house, if each day we can dip into God's Word, the Bible, if we can spend some honest time dipping into fervent prayer, then the miracle can be

wrought for us, as truly as it was for Naaman.

This is in effect what Jesus was saying when he said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying, "I am the Jordan and all of the other shrines of the world. Come dip in me, and be clean."

When a suspected criminal is questioned by the authorities, he is admonished to "come clean." He is asked to make a clean breast of it. This is what we should perhaps say to anyone seeking to walk as a Christian daily, "Come clean, make a clean breast of it and God will forgive and make clean."

Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing and found it. He stepped into the Jordan a diseased man and stepped out as the original "Mr. Clean." Let us come to the river Jordan which is Christ, and seek this cleansing in our lives.

*A very good & concise sermon. The language is the development of the theme as well done. The application of the text is good.*



"Mr. Clean!"

Text: II Kings 5:14, "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

Naaman was the commander-in-chief of the Syrian army during the days of King Aram. He was a very great man in his nation and <sup>was</sup> held in very high esteem by the king. It was through his valor and courage that Syria had won out over her enemies. But there was one thing wrong with Naaman, he was a leper. To be a leper was not only a hindrance to anyone, but in certain areas it automatically cut that person off from any contact with healthy people. So Naaman was concerned about his disease.

When the Syrian army had made a raid on ~~xx~~ a village of Israel they had captured a little Jewish maid and had brought her back to Syria. This maid was one of the ~~servants~~ servants of Naaman's wife. In a conversation with Naaman's wife she remarked one day, "Would that my ~~lord~~ lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman's wife told him of this conversation and so ~~he~~ <sup>Naaman</sup> went to ~~the~~ King Aram and <sup>REPORTED TO</sup> ~~told~~ him ~~of~~ what the Jewish maid had said, concerning his disease. King Aram told him, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

And so Naaman departed for Israel taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. The silver and gold amounted to approximately 80,000 dollars. He arrived at the court of the king of Israel and presented there the letter sent by King Aram. The letter read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of ~~his~~ his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read this letter he rent his clothes, and began to pace the floor nervously. He said, "Am I God, to kill and

make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?

Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

What he was really saying was that in ancient Israel the king was believed to have been divine, and he was looked upon as a miracle worker in the healing of sickness and disease. He was really asking? "Am I a prophet or a servant of God?", since the prophets at the time of this writing were the ones who did the miracle work of God. He was also suspicious that King Aram had tricked him, and if Naaman were not cured by him, then Aram would have an excuse to attack Israel.

But fortunately for the king of Israel, Elisha heard of the arrival of Naaman and of the king's dismay over his visit. Elisha sends a message to the king and inquires why he is so upset and why he is rending his clothes in dismay. "Let him come to me," he says,  
"That he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman drives up ~~in his with his horses and chariots~~ to the door of Elisha ~~and~~ with his horses and chariots. But Elisha does not come out to see him and sends one of his messengers instead. The messenger delivers the message from Elisha which was, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." This angers Naaman and <sup>as</sup> he speeds away from Elisha's gate, ~~in anger~~ and mutters, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"

He is saying, "What's so special about the river Jordan?  
The rivers of Damascus are much calmer and cleaner and prettier."  
There is an ancient story that Mohammed in his youth went to Damascus in a caravan, but when he came to the summit of the southern hills and



saw the unexpected view of the oasis of Damascus, with its orchards and its blossoms he turned away, wrapping his face in his mantle, saying that man may enter but one paradise and that paradise was above. The Arabs called the Damascus oasis, "The garden of the world."

So Naaman was in a rage because of how he had been treated by ~~Elisha~~ Elisha. But one of his servants came to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it?" "How much rather, then when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean'?"

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

After this he returned to Elisha and in his presence said, "Behold, I know that ~~there~~ there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But Elisha in refusing it said, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." But Naaman insisted and Elisha still refused to accept payment of any kind.

Naaman then ~~xx~~ makes a very strange request when he says, "If not, I pray you, let there be given to your servant two mules burden of ~~xxix~~ earth; for henceforth your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord." He tells Elisha that when he goes into the house of worship of the god Rimmon back home in Syria, he will merely be paying token worship to that god but will actually only truly worship the God of Israel. Elisha tells him, "Go in peace."

What is really taking place in the latter part of this story is that it was believed ~~that~~ by the people of the lands surrounding Israel, that God could only be worshiped in the land of Israel. So if they returned to Syria or another country and took some of the soil of Israel, they could worship the God of Israel, since in effect they would be doing so on soil from Israel.

Naaman left Syria, a diseased man. A man worried about his health, about his station in life, and about all of the things that might come to pass if he remained diseased. He came to Israel seeking a miracle, but he found instead an injunction to do something that seemed foolish. He expected to be given some great formulation by this prophet of God. He expected to have words spoken over him to heal him and was angered first of all that the prophet could not come to him personally, and secondly because what he was told was so childish it was almost ridiculous.

But when he listened to the words of one of his own servants, and took the necessary requirement for healing, he was in fact healed. And isn't this what is demanded of you and I? There is simply no substitute for the old river Jordan. Modern man can look at Hot Springs in many parts of the world for healing and be disappointed. He may go to Lourdes France or that shrine in Canada seeking healing and never find it. ~~But when he throws off his pride, stifles his vanity, and dips himself~~ Naaman conquered his pride, stifled his vanity, and proud soldier that he was went down and dipped seven times into the Jordan, and "his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

It is still pride and vanity that keeps many a modern Naaman from receiving the blessing that came to that ancient Syrian. If we can forget our pride and our vanity, and put off our intellectual attitudes, and our critical looks at the church and go down into the stream of the life giving gift of God, then our flesh can indeed "be restored like the flesh of a little child, and we can become clean." If each week we can bathe our souls in a real worship in God's house, if each day we can dip into the Bible, and if we can spend some honest time in prayer, then the miracle will be wrought for us as truly as it was for Naaman.



This is what Jesus was saying when he said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying, "I am the Jordan, come dip in me and be clean."

When a suspected criminal is questioned by the authorities he is admonished to "come clean." To make a clean breast of it, and if he does he is perhaps promised that the law may "go easy on him." This is what we should perhaps say to anyone seeking to walk as a Christian daily, "Come clean", make a clean breast of it in Christ, and God will forgive and go easy on you."

Naaman came to Israel seeking cleansing and found it. He stepped into the Jordan a diseased man, and stepped out for all intents and purposes as the original, "Mr. Clean." Let us come to THE river Jordan, which is Christ, and seek this cleansing in us. Let us pray.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 27, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "JOYLL" WELY  
SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 7 "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO ART RICH IN MERCY TOWARD ALL, WE CONFESS BEFORE THEE: ALL OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER OUR OWN INTERESTS, AND OUR THOUGHTLESSNESS OF OTHERS; OUR NEEDLESS ANXIETIES AND THE TIMIDITIES IN THE FACE OF THY CALLS TO DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY; OUR LOVE OF OLD ERRORS AND OUR DISTRUST OF THE TRUTH WHICH WOULD LEAD US IN NEW WAYS; OUR BLIND CONFIDENCE IN FALSE GODS, THE HIGHWAYS INTO BETTER THINGS WHICH WE BLOCK FOR OTHERS AND FOR OURSELVES BY OUR DESPAIR. PARDON US FOR ALL OUR SINS -- THOSE WE DO NOT KNOW, AND THOSE WE DARE NOT NAME, AND LEAD US INTO THAT NEW LIFE WHICH IS HID WITH CHRIST IN THEE. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: HAGGAI 1: 5-9  
LUKE 12: 13-21

HYMN No. 131 "O MASTER WORKMAN OF THE RACE"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "MR. UNCLEAN!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

ANTHEM: "AMAZING GRACE"

ARR. BY J. NEWTON

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "BERCEUSE IN A"

DELBRUCK

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICERS

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 32 "SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL"

BLAKE

\*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. GILBERT HEGINBOTHAM IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*DON KINGSLEY, DAVID

CURTIS, GEORGE NAZARUK, PAUL CAMPBELL.

DEACON AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 218

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN

AND MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. RAYMOND MILLER, MRS. R.L. RICHEY,

MRS. BETTY FILSON, MRS. DELORES BOTACCHI, MR. W.W. PFABE

RESERVE NEXT SUNDAY FEB. 3 - 5:30 P.M. - CONGREGATION-

AL DINNER AND MEETING. THE DINNER WILL BE TUREEN

STYLE, BEVERAGE AND DESSERT BEING FURNISHED. ANY

FAMILY WITH MORE THAN TWO IS ASKED TO BRING TWO

TUREENS. REV. COOPER WILL BE RECOGNIZED FOR THE

WORK HE HAS DONE FOR US OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME FOR REV. LINK AND HIS FAMILY.

THE YEARBOOK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THIS TIME. IF

YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION CALL 287-6568 - ROBERT

KNAUER'S.

THERE WILL BE A PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING - FOR

OLD AND NEW MEMBERS - TUES. - JANUARY 29TH AT

7:00. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE OLD COMMITTEE AS

WELL AS THE NEW ONES ATTEND.

DON'T FORGET OUR PASTOR - RALPH LINK WILL BE

ORDAINED - MARCH 10, 7:30 P.M. IN OUR CHURCH.

NEW SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY - OFFERING 1ST.





Repeat "The last & only thing

3/

FRIENDS, WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN LIFE MORE THAN ANYTHING  
ELSE?

IS IT YOUR HUSBAND, OR YOUR WIFE?

IS IT YOUR CHILDREN?

YOUR POSSESSIONS?

YOUR VERY LIFE?

HAVE YOU TURNED IT ALL OVER TO YOUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?

WHY NOT CONSIDER IT WELL, & DECIDE TO BE MR. CLEAN

INSTEAD OF MR UNCLEAN?

WHY NOT DO IT NOW? TODAY?



"Mr. Unclean!"

Text: Haggai 1:9b, "Because of my house that lies in ruins, while you busy yourselves each with his own house."

Luke 12:15 "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

In the comic strip "Peanuts" there is a character named "Pig Pen." Pig Pen is the little boy who is continually dirty. I particularly enjoy seeing him on television because there it is that you get the true character of this little fellow. If you have seen it you know what I mean, for when he walks or moves, the dirt ~~just~~ is continually ~~is coming~~ falling from him or swirling around him. What makes it doubly enjoyable for me is the fact that we once had a "pig pen" in the family. No matter how clean and nicely he was dressed, in a very short time he was a dirty little boy. And we remind Lloyd of this from time to time. Last week we talked about a man named Naaman, who was unclean and became clean. Mr. Clean in other words because of the 7 baths he took in the river Jordan to get clean. Well this week, let us look at Mr. Unclean, THE PIG PEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Mr. Unclean as I call him, was a man named Gehazi. Gehazi was a servant of the prophet Elisha, and the story of him that I will relate is to be found in the latter part of ~~the~~ chapter 5 of II Kings. The story of Mr. Clean or Naaman was taken from the first part of this same chapter.

OF HIS LEPROSY

If you recall, Naaman came to Elisha to be healed, and when he did as he was instructed to do, he was cleansed. In gratitude he tried to present gifts to Elisha but Elisha refused. And so ~~it is~~ ~~we~~ we read that after Naaman has gone but a short distance from Elisha, Gehazi ~~taking~~ seeing all that has taken place, thinks all of this through and sees for himself an opportunity to make gain out of loss. He thinks to himself, "My master has permitted this fellow to

come and to reap a benefit and has not been required to make payment for it. So since my master does not care to collect a reward for his work, I shall go and get the reward instead."

So he runs after the caravan bearing Naaman back to Syria. When the servants of Naaman spot this fellow running after them they inform their master and he orders the caravan to stop. Alighting from his chariot Naaman inquires, "Is all well?" And Gehazi answers, "All is well. My master ~~xxx~~ has sent me to say, 'There have just now come to me from the ~~hills~~ hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets; pray give them ~~two talents of silver~~ a talent of silver and two festal garments.'" So Gehazi is not only greedy to get what does not belong to him, but he is a liar as well.

And Naaman answers, "Be pleased to accept two talents." ~~In other words he is willing to give up twice the asking price in gratitude for what happened to him.~~ " And he urged him, and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two festal garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they carried them before Gehazi." In other words Naaman is so thankful and grateful for what has been accomplished in his life, that he is willing to give up twice as much as has been asked for. He even supplies his own servants to carry the gifts back to the house of Elisha.

And when they came to the hill, Gehazi took the presents from the servants and put them in the house, and dismissed the servants of Naaman. So Gehazi ~~goes into the house~~ comes to Elisha in the house and Elisha inquires, "Where have you been Gehazi?" And Gehazi answers, "Your servant went nowhere." But Elisha surprisingly answers him, "Did I not go with you in spirit when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, menservants and maidservants?" What he is



~~saying that what must have been a very~~

3

saying, to what must have been a very surprised Gehazi is, "Don't you realize that since I am a prophet of the Lord I am able to see and know things that ordinary people do not know? And I know that you went to Naaman to ask for the presents which do not rightfully belong to you. I know where you have been and I know what kind of an evil, conniving, scheming man you are. Was it your place to seek for yourself gifts and presents that you had no right ~~xxx~~ to be presented to you?"

And Elisha then makes the pronouncement to Gehazi, "Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you, and to your descendants for ever." And we are told that Gehazi "went out from his presence a leper, as white as snow."

Here is the conclusion of a story that tells of redemption and punishment, A pagan, a believer in other gods, comes to Israel to a prophet of Yahweh, the God of Israel, and ~~finds~~ <sup>SEEKING</sup> an miracle and by his faith finds it. While on the other hand an Israelite, <sup>GEHAZI</sup> sees an opportunity to have what does not really belong to him and is cursed by it. Naaman becomes Mr. Clean in more ways than one, and Gehazi becomes Mr. Unclean.

In ancient Israel a leper was considered a very unclean person. Anyone who was a leper had to continuously call out, "Unclean, unclean," thus anyone walking near them could cross the street and not be contaminated by them. Anyone being healed of leprosy had to go to the synagogue and present himself to the priest and thus be declared legally clean if such was the case. So here we would see Naaman had he been a Jew, rushing to the synagogue shouting, "I'm clean, I'm clean," while Gehazi would be required to walk about shouting, "Unclean, unclean."

What a contrast in this one chapter of the deeds and actions of two men. But we see in life today the signs of all of this. We see that some people are seeking cleansing and healing of soul and body, and we see people who are trying to take ~~things~~ things that do not

belong to them. We see nations trying to live in peace and we see other nations striving to get what is not rightfully theirs to have. Thus we witness the greed and covetousness all around us.

(Story of Abe Lincoln and two little boys)

Jesus told his followers, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." He was saying that whatever we have, we should be satisfied with it and not long to have that which is not rightfully ours to have. He was saying that we come into this life with nothing and we shall leave it with nothing. ~~xxx~~ The story is told of Alexander the Great expressing the desire that upon his death, his hands were not to be enclosed in white gloves as was the custom. But rather, he wanted his hands to be left bare, so that all who saw his body as it was being carried out for burial in the funeral procession, would see that he left this world taking nothing with him.

The prophet Haggai said, "You have looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while you busy yourselves with your own houses, each with ~~your~~ his own house."

What the prophet is saying here is a condemnation of the people of Israel looking after their own selfish interests and neglecting the House of God. They were content to work for themselves and their own needs and desires but were not concerned with working to upbuild ~~the~~ <sup>God's</sup> temple House.

Thus we can see that desiring things ~~that~~ we have no right to desire, can be an involvement not only in our private lives, but in our church lives as well. We can become so self-seeking that we can completely neglect the church. Our own little worlds can mean so much to us, that we cannot be bothered with whatever time or money we should spend in building the House of God. We practically say to God, "Don't bother me now, can't you see I'm too busy, and I don't have time to



spare for you, nor money either." This was the indirect attitude of  
Jezebel. He was all wrapped up in what he could gain, and was determined  
to get it. His desire was for things that he did not deserve nor have  
any right to desire.

And because of this he became ~~unclean~~ Mr. Unclean. There  
 is a real moral here for all of us. It is the moral that when we seek  
our own desires, when we become the victims of wishing and wanting that  
which we do not deserve or merit, it is then that we become unclean. We  
become like much of the world, for the filth and the dirt of the world  
rubs off on our characters and can even infect our very souls.

(Illustration Chinese Gordon)

"The last and only thing that I had in this world that I  
valued, I have given over to the Lord Jesus Christ," what a fitting  
epitaph for anyone. Friends what do you value in this life more than  
anything else? Is it your wife or husband? Your children? Your possessions?  
Your very life? Have you turned it over to your Lord Jesus Christ? Why  
not consider it well and decide to be Mr. Clean ~~and not unclean~~ instead of  
Mr. Unclean. Let us pray.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 3, 1974  
 BOY SCOUT SUNDAY  
 MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
 DENNIS MASTER, PAULA STEPHENSON - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN D" SCARMOLIN  
 "MEDITATION" BERWALD

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 50 "STILL, STILL WITH THEE"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY GOD, WHO DOES SEARCH AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF MEN: GRANT US TO KNOW OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE; OPEN TO US THE CONDITION OF OUR SOULS; GIVE US PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS FOR OUR SINS, ENABLE US WITH STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO AMEND OUR LIVES; DELIVER US FROM CAPTIVITY TO FALSE THOUGHTS AND EVIL HABITS, THAT WITH UNITY OF MIND AND PEACE OF CONSCIENCE WE MAY HAVE OUR FULL RECONCILIATION WITH YOU, AND BE OF THE BLESSED COMPANY OF ALL YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EXODUS 14: 1-14

HYMN No. 303 "COME, YE DISCONSOLATE"

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "OFFERTOIRE IN B" ARMSTRONG  
 SCOUT OATH

ACOLYTE PINS PRESENTATION

RECOGNITION OF GOD AND COUNTRY SCOUTS

ANTHEM: "HE TOUCHED ME" BY WILLIAM GAITHER

SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

SERMON: "SAFETY GLASSES!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 318 "NEARER, MY GOD TO THEE"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" HEYSER

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY THE CARL HOLLEFREUND, JR. FAMILY IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT, JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER.

DEACON AND MRS. DAVID CURTIS WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 188.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HOMER FILSON (BETTY) AND

MRS. ROGER FERREE (HELEN). - *HEARD*

MRS. R. L. RICHEY IS NOW AT JACK'S CONVALESCENT HOME IN HARMONY, PA. 16037.

TODAY - 5:30 - CONGREGATION DINNER AND MEETING -

THOSE OF MORE THAN TWO ARE ASKED TO BRING TWO TUREENS. THE YEARBOOK WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE MEETING. BEVERAGE AND DESSERT WILL BE FURNISHED.

THE MEN ARE ASKED TO HELP SET UP TABLE IN THE

UNDERCROFT AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE

HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC SWEETHEART DINNER DANCE WILL BE HELD AT SAXONBURG

FIRE HALL - FEB. 16 - SAT. EVE. AT 7:00 P.M.

CONTACT - ROLAND THOMPSON'S OR CHUCK FENAR'S.

WE HAVE A NEW YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR - CYNDIE SYBERT.

FIRST PRACTICE IS FEBRUARY 10 (NEXT SUNDAY) AT

6:30 P.M.

DON'T FORGET - TONIGHT 5:30 - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

WELCOME - VISITORS

2/

They had completely forgotten been ill-treated  
& abused slaves of Egyptians  
It willing to trust God to care for problem at hand

Moses, man of faith he was, tells them - vs 13,14 (text)  
He telling look toward God, forget looking back to  
pursuers & Egypt.

in remainder of chap. read how Moses stretches  
out rod at command of God; sea divides, they cross  
sea returns to normal & Egyptians drowned, destroyed

Thousands years passed since people lived this episode  
yet human nature not changed significantly.  
People still prone to look back in fear instead  
ahead in faith.

When I read incident was reminded as salesman calling  
industrial plants.

Before enter plants, given hardhat safety glasses  
Most men here know safety glasses, no need to tell,  
but for rest, they are special glasses, thick safety  
glass lens, gismos on sides protect eyes from side.  
Not only protect eyes, make possible work with  
little fear, & concentrate on ~~work~~ work better

Today we observe Boy Scout Sunday.  
This day we recognize this organiz., & boys who  
participate in it.  
But must also think of all youth in general  
We need to be giving all youth safety glasses for  
their lives.

We need to be telling them as Moses did,  
"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the  
Lord, which he will work for you today. The Lord  
will work for you and you have only to be still."

We need to instill this not only in Boy Scouts, but  
in S.S. as well.

It has been source of amazement to me in past few  
years that so many of our children do not even know  
the most simple of Bible stories.

This is not only sad commentary on UCC curriculum,  
but on the parents & families as well.

We are living in society that wants to shift the  
responsibility in many areas.  
Trend has been & is continuing, that someone else  
must bear the burden.

Someone else must take care of our problems  
Someone else must take care of our aged  
Someone else must take care of our sick

# "Safety Glasses!"

Text: Exodus 14:13,14

"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm,  
and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work  
for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today,  
you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for  
you, and you have only to be still.'

When read history of Jewish nation & beginnings,  
read of nation oppressed severely.

Had been enslaved by same people as once friendly.  
Story of Joseph & bros how settled & favorites of  
Egyptians

But when difficult times, tried solve problems  
forgetting about God.

But God came to rescue again, selected Moses leader  
God put deliverance in motion thru servant Moses  
God heard cry of people.

Bible records:

"And the people of Israel groaned under their bondage  
and cried out for help, and their cry under bondage  
came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and  
God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac,  
and with Jacob. And God saw the people of Israel and  
knew their condition." Ex. 2:23-25

More people fought to be free of bondage,  
more Pharaoh hardened heart & would not release them  
Not until plagues, & in particular Passover, Pharaoh  
decided to let go.

But even after they left God spoke Moses, & told  
how he would harden Pharaoh's heart once again,  
at once for all Egyptians would know He was God.

In chap. 14:vs 5 read king told people gone  
They wondered what they had permitted to happen  
Now they realized no more slaves & servants  
Now they were left to do own work  
So Pharaoh's heart hardened again & pursues  
them with army and chariots

He comes upon them while they camped by Red Sea  
Vs. 10 people filled with fear.

Here in their lives Jews walking by sight not faith  
Had gotten eyes off God & on men

they began to fear Moses had led astray,

Instead looking up to God, looking back in fear  
Dismaying fact no longer in safety & security  
of Egypt, once held for them.



The message from GOD is:

4/

"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. The Lord will work for you, and you ~~will be still~~ have only to be still."

Be still, and let God put his safety glasses on you,

Someone else must educate our children.

3/

It is time that we parents begin to assume our responsibility for the proper education of our children.

We need to begin to teach them what God means to me. What God has done & has been in history. Our library over there ~~is~~ has many good books of Bible stories, we could be sharing with our child.

Maybe we do not know all about Bible.

No cause for embarrassment.

I do not know it intimately or completely, but we should continue to search and learn.

I can recall as little boy how mother would take time out to answer a childish question.

Regardless what the question, always had answer that had to do with God.

Many times she would simply tell me Bible story appropriate for the occasion.

She gave me the safety glasses of God.

When all is going well we are able to praise God.

But when smallest trouble comes, we get discouraged and begin to complain and murmur.

This what happened to Jewish people.

They could only stand and look at sea stretching before them.

They could only think here we are without ships, how to escape annihilation.

We would say, "Up creek without paddle."

As they looked back saw Egyptians in hot pursuit, & thought slavery better than death.

It is surprising how many of us are guilty many times of looking back to the Egyptians following us or pushing us toward the Red Sea in front of us.

But if we put on the safety glasses of God, & looked toward Him, life would take on its proper perspective.

We take our eyes off the Lord, and we look at ourselves, our needs our wants, our desires, and we forget all else.

We are something like the young man who once was walking and looked down and found 10 dollar bill. He spent all of life looking down at ground found dozens of bottle caps, bottles, paper etc, & missed all of the beauty around him.

"Safety Glasses!"

Text: Exodus 14:13,14.

"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you ~~only~~ have only to be still.'"

~~When we read the history of~~

When we read the history of the Jewish nation in its early beginnings, we read of a nation that was oppressed very severely. They had been enslaved by the very same people who had once been friendly to them. I am sure we all know the story of Joseph and his brothers and how they settled in Egypt and were the favored people of the land. But then they had difficult times and they tried to solve their own problems forgetting about God.

But once again God came to their rescue and selected Moses to be their leader. God put his deliverance into motion through His servant Moses, because we are told that He heard the cry of His people. The Bible records,

"And the people of Israel groaned under their bondage, and cried out for help, and their cry under bondage came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. And God saw the people of Israel and knew their condition." Ex. 2:23-25

The more the people sought to be free of their bondage, the more Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not release them. It was not until the plagues were visited upon the Egyptians and more specifically the Passover, that Pharaoh decided that he would let the people go. But even after the people had gone God spoke to Moses and informed him that He would harden Pharaoh's heart once again, that once and for all the Egyptians would know that He was God.

So we read in chapter 14, verse 5, that the king was told that the people had gone, and they wondered at what they had done. They realized that now they no longer had slaves and people to do their bidding. They were left to do all of the work that the Israelites were forced to perform. Thus, their anxiety that the Israelites had gone.

So Pharaoh's heart is hardened toward them again, and he pursues them with his army and his chariots, and he comes upon them while they are camped at



the sea. And we read (vs 10), the people were filled with fear. Right here in their lives, the Jews were walking by sight and not by faith. They had gotten their eyes off God and on men and they began to fear that Moses had led them astray. Instead of looking up to God in faith, they were looking back in fear toward Egypt. They were bemoaning the fact that they were ~~not~~ <sup>ONCE</sup> no longer in the safety and security that Egypt <sup>1</sup> held for them. They had completely forgotten that they had been ill-treated and abused slaves of the Egyptians. They were not willing to trust God to take care of the problem at hand.

But Moses, man of faith that he was on many occasions, tells them, (14:13 & 14). He is telling them to look toward God and forget about looking back to Egypt and their pursuers. And if we read the remainder of this chapter, we read how ~~THE~~ Moses at the command of God, stretches out his rod and the sea divides allowing them to pass through it and after they have crossed, the sea returns to normal again and the Egyptians are drowned and destroyed.

Thousands of years have passed since those people lived through that episode, and yet human nature has not changed very significantly. People are still prone to look back in fear instead of looking ahead in faith. As I read this incident I was reminded of when I was working as a salesman <sup>How</sup> I would call on different industrial plants. Before entering the plant proper I was issued a hard hat and a pair of safety glasses. Most of the men here this morning know about safety glasses, so there is no need for me to explain this ~~then~~ to them. But for those who do not know about safety glasses, they are a special pair of glasses with thick safety glass for the lens, and on the sides they have little gizmos that come out and protect the eyes from something that might fly at you from the side. They not only protect the eyes, but they make it possible to work in dangerous areas, with little fear, and to be able to concentrate on your work.

Today we observe as Boy Scout Sunday. This is a day in which we not only recognize this organization and the boys of this congregation who participate in it, but we think of youth in general. We need to be giving all youth



safety glasses for their lives. We need to be telling them as Moses did a long ago, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. The Lord will fight for you and you have only to be still." With these glasses fitted firmly upon them, our young people and any ~~young people~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ person for that matter, need not fear what is coming from the side, or what has been in the past, but can instead concentrate upon the task at hand, knowing that God will take care of all circumstances.

We need to instill this not only in Boy Scouts, but in our Church School as well. It has been a source of amazement to me ~~that~~ in the past few years that so many of our Church School youngsters, not only here but elsewhere, ~~xxxxxx~~ do not know some of the simplest Bible stories. I think this is not only a sad commentary on our United Church of Christ curriculum, but on the parents as well. We are living in a society today that wants to pass the buck all the way down the line. The trend has been and is continuing, that someone else must bear the burden. Someone else must take care of our sick. Someone else must take care of our aged. Someone else must educate our children.

It is time that we who are parents began to assume the responsibility for the proper education of our children at all age levels. We need to begin to teach them what God means to me, and this is what He has done in history. Our library over there has many good books of Bible stories that we could be using as families to teach our children. Maybe we ~~don't~~ do not know all of the Bible and all that is in it. This is not a cause for embarrassment or shame. I do not know all of the Bible intimately, but I continue to seek in it for the answers I need. I can recall as a very little boy, how my mother would take time out from what she was doing to answer a childish question of mine. ~~xxxxx~~ Regardless what the question was, it always had an answer that had to do with God. Many times she would simply tell me a Bible story that was appropriate for the occasion. She gave me the safety glasses of God.

When everything is going well we are able to praise God. But when the smallest troubles come, we get discouraged and begin to complain and to murmur. This is what happened to the Jewish people. They could only stand and look at

sea stretching out before them. They could only think that here we are without any ships at all, how are we going to escape complete annihilation? We would say, "They were up the creek without a paddle." As they looked back they saw the Egyptians in hot pursuit and they thought back to living there, and even slavery was better than death.

It is surprising how many answers and excuses I get as to why people do not come to church. I call someone on the phone who has not been in church for sometime and immediately I get the reasons as to why not. It is almost as though the preacher is a walking confessional booth. But basically all of the excuses for non-attendance at church, stems from a personal feeling. They are reasons that have turned the gaze of the person away from God and on themselves. And isn't this what causes most of our problems? We take our eyes off the Lord, and we look at ~~our personal wants and needs and~~ ~~desires~~ ourselves. We look at our personal wants, and needs, and desires.



O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 10, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

DENNIS MASTER, PAULA STEPHENSON - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "SABBATH MORNING" SAVAGE  
"ANDANTINO RELIGIOSO" STABILE

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 43 "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "OH CHRIST, WE STAND AS YOUR WATCHMEN EVER ON THE ALERT, READY FOR ANY THREAT TO OURSELVES OR OTHERS. CHRIST THE REVEALER OF GOD AND AS THE PROPHET SAID, WE ARE YOUR WATCHMEN. FORGIVE US WHEN WE HAVE DESERTED OUR POSTS. PARDON US WHEN WE HAVE LET SIN INVADE OUR OWN LIVES OR LEFT THE WAY OPEN FOR TEMPTATION TO OVERCOME OUR NEIGHBOR. FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE FORGOTTEN TO WARN OUR NEIGHBOR OF IMPENDING DANGER, AND WHEN WE FAIL TO MEET HIS BASIC NEEDS. AND AS YOU FORGIVE, GRANT US THE STRENGTH TO STAND FAST AT OUR POSTS DESPITE OURSELVES. WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS WHO DIED TO MAKE US NEIGHBORS. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EZEKIEL 34: 1-16

HYMN No. 461 "SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "CHANSON TRISTE" TCHAIKOWSKY

ANTHEM: "GRANT, WE BESEECH THEE" DAVIS

SERMON: "LOVE THOSE STATISTICS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 393 "O BROTHER MAN"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "PSALM OF JOY" BLAKE

--- \*CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*MONT MACKINNEY,

STEVE VARGO, JIMMIE FENAR, WALLY FEDER.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

DEACONESS MRS. ANN WILLIAMS WILL BE AT THE DOOR TODAY REPRESENTING COUNCIL.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 216.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON

TONIGHT - 6:30 - THE YOUTH CHOIR WILL MEET - MRS.

CYNTHIA SYBERT WILL BE THE DIRECTOR. PRACTICE WILL

BE OVER AT 7:30. THIS IS OPEN FOR ANYONE FROM 4TH GRADE AND UP.

COMING UP SOON - FEB. 21 IS THE BUTLER AREA LAYMAN'S

DINNER - THURSDAY EVENING AT 6:30 - THE WOMEN'S

FELLOWSHIP HAVE CHARGE OF THE MEAL AT THIS CHURCH.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM J. WALTER HARMON AND

ROBERT TAIT.

~~SAT. FEBRUARY~~ - FEB. 16 - THE ARC WILL HOLD A SWEETHEART

DINNER-DANCE AT THE SAXONBURG FIRE HALL. MR. & MRS.

ROLAND THOMPSON AND MR. & MRS. CHARLES FENAR HAVE

TICKETS. MEET UPSTAIRS FOR THE MEAL AT 7:00.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE - FEB. 24, MARCH 17 & 31.

CONTACT BEA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR YEARBOOK - THEY ARE

IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY - THE USHERS WILL HELP

YOU LOCATE YOURS.

DON'T FORGET TO STILL SAVE YOUR OLD ROSE FOR GREENVILLE

HOME. VASES ARE STILL NEEDED TO HOLD ALTAR FLOWERS

TO PATIENTS AT THE LOCAL HOSPITAL. YOU MAY PLACE

THESE ON THE COUNTER IN THE KITCHEN.

WELCOME VISITORS.

(Illustration of sailor disfigured in war)

The author of Hebrews tells us,

~~"Let us not love the world or the things of the world."~~

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body."

We are to put ourselves in the shoes of the other person.

We are to think what it would be like to be in their circumstances.

When we look at it in this light, life takes on a different complexion.

We can see that life would change radically if we would act in this way.

But too often we are comparable to the ~~shepherds~~ people of Israel that God was speaking to through Ezekiel.

Too often we are ready to condemn and criticize.

Too often we are content to stand smugly by and gloat over others misfortunes, thinking that we are righteous and they are not.

It is so easy to pass by the others who are less fortunate than we.

(Illustration of Dr. Paul Mansfield)

Here was a man who loved statistics.

He loved them enough that he gave of his time, his money, his strength, his energy.

Do you love ~~statistics~~ those statistics?  
God wants us to.

He tells us, vs 15 and 16.

Even if we do not love those statistics He will.  
God will seek them out, and search for them, and not give up on them even if we do.

I pray that each of us will go out and minister to those in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

May we support those who need our help, and love those who are unlovable.

And may God guide us that we may always love the parties of broken marriages. That we will love mental patients. That we will love the drug addicts, and the criminals,

"Love Those Statistics!"

Text: Ezekiel 34:15,16,

"I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice."

out of every 1000 ended in divorce  
In 1971 768 marriages ~~ended~~  
or about 3 out of 4 failed.

In 70, 3.3 Americans per 1000 pop. mental patients

In 70 68,864 drug addicts

In 69 -676 violent crimes per 100,000 pop.

In 70 32.3% per 1000 pop. of youth between 10 and 17 were delinquent.

How's that for statistics?

We are a nation of statistics.

You are stats, and so am I.

recently heard that in every car being driven in U.S. there are 1.5 people.

8 out of 10 people prefer a certain toothpaste, and 27% like the president.

Love Those Statistics!

Ezekiel 34: vs 2b, the shepherds have neglected the sheep.

vs 4,5,6 the shepherds have not taken care of the needs of the sheep.

In the NT Jesus tells of a shepherd looking for the lost sheep.

Alfred Soord painted this picture. on canvas

He portrays a very masculine, rough, tough shepherd. instead of an effeminate shepherd as most are painted

In one hand the crook thrust between some rocks.

With other hand reaching out & down to sheep standing on rocks below him.

Can see straining muscles in hands & arms.

Circling overhead eagles waiting chance to swoop, & attack this meat for a meal.

Evident the sheep not led there by the shepherd the mt. rock strewn and sheep wandered or fell whatever the case the shepherd risking life for sheep

This is what God is saying in vs 11 & 12. He will seek them regardless.



the drunkards, the down and outers, and all of the  
other statistics that we love to quote.

3/

May we love those statistics and may they become for  
each of us, real live men and women who are loved by  
God and whom we must show our love, our concern, and  
our help.

"Care For Statistics?"

Text: Luke 15:6b, "I have found my sheep that was lost." Jer. Bible

Hebrews 13:1-3, "Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in one body."

~~According to~~ *IN* 1971 ~~statistics~~, 768 out of every 1000 marriages ended in divorce. This would mean that almost 75% of every 1000 marriages ended in divorce or about 3 out of every 4 failed.

In 1970 3.3 Americans per 1000 population were admitted to mental hospitals.

In 1970 there were 68,864 drug addicts listed for the United States.

In 1969 there were 676 violent crimes committed per 100,000 population.

In 1970 32.3% per 1000 population of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 were delinquent.

Jesus told a wonderful little story when He spoke of the shepherd going after one sheep that was lost. An artist named Alfred Soord painted a picture which he entitled, "The Lost Sheep." Here is a picture that tells this story in vivid detail. Most of the time when we see a painting of the Good Shepheard we see portrayed an elegantly dressed effeminate shephard. He is usually carrying a lamb on his shoulders and he looks more like a well scrubbed wealthy boy and not at all like the rough tough person a real shepherd must have been. ~~But this is~~ *IS A RUBBED LOOKING MAN.* The kind of shepherd that Soord displays. The picture shows a shepherd in the rough cloak made of wool with the fleece side in, hanging on the side of a steep hill or mountain. In one hand he has the shepherds crook which is thrust ~~into~~ in between



some rocks to give him leverage to reach out beneath him. With the other hand he is reaching out and down to a sheep who is standing on the rocks below him. You can see the straining muscles in his hand as it grips the staff, and the other arm and hand as they reach out convey to the onlooker a sense of urgency. Circling overhead are what appear to be eagles awaiting a chance to swoop down and ~~xxx~~ attack this meat for a meal.

It is evident from this portrayal on canvas that this sheep was not led there by the shepherd. The mountain is wild and rock strewn and it becomes infinitely clear in a very short time that the sheep wandered in this direction and fell or became lost from the flock. Perhaps the sheep was too adventuresome, or was too young to know the dangers that were present. But whatever the case, the shepherd is risking his very life to save that one lost sheep.

This is what Jesus was portraying in his parable of the lost sheep. He was saying that God cares about the sheep who go astray. God is concerned about those 3 marriages out of 4 that go sour. He is concerned about the 3.3% who are in mental hospitals. He is concerned about those thousands of drug addicts. He is concerned about those people who have committed murder and rape and theft. He is concerned about the 32.3% who are juvenile delinquents. God cares about all of His children. He is not content that one of them should perish.

~~But there is one further aspect of this~~ We know that God cares about these people but what about the rest of us? Do you care for statistics? Do I? Does anyone?

(Illustration of son disfigured in the navy and rejected by parents)

We can accept our own kin, those who are nearest and dearest to us, but this shows our reluctance to love those least like us. But not so with God. He loves the lost, the last, and the least of

men.

Along these same lines the author of Hebrews is telling us; "Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in one body."

We are to put ourselves in the shoes of the other ~~per~~son. We are to think in terms of what it would be like if the tables were reversed and we were the ones who were in prison, or if we were those who were being mistreated by others. When we look at it in this light it takes on an altogether different meaning. We can see then that life would change radically for anyone under circumstances such as these.

Too often we are ready to condemn and to criticize. Too often we are content to stand smugly by and think of ourselves as being so righteous and anyone not like us is deserving of what he gets. But our stand should be one of love and concern for those statistics. If we cannot do anything else, the very least we can do is to try to remember people in these circumstances in our prayers.

I heard an interesting item on a news program this past week. It involves a man being sought by the police. It seems this fellow came to this ~~coal~~ mining area and set himself up in practice as a doctor. For a few years now he has been taking care of the needs of these people setting bones and dispensing medicine, ~~but then~~ But you see his crime is one of not being licensed as a doctor. So when he heard that the law was coming for him he disappeared and it is thought he ~~went~~ <sup>HAS GONE</sup> to South America because he often mentioned that he wanted to go there to help those people. ~~He~~ <sup>H</sup> He mentioned that the law

<sup>THERE</sup> - was ~~not as concerned about~~ more lenient when it came to licensing and restrictions on practitioners. Now the people <sup>OF THAT AREA</sup> must go to the nearest

doctor who is merely 75 miles away. There were never any complaints about the man and he never harmed anyone by giving the wrong medicine, nor was he ever responsible for anyones death. His only crime, no degree and no license. And for helping people and curing their illnesses he becomes a criminal.

I'm not implying that we must stop the practice of dispensing degrees and licenses, but I am saying that we need to evaluate just what they really amount to in some instances. Here is a man who took upon himself a task that no one else wanted because it was probably not lucrative enough. We glorify robbers and murderers like Bonnie and Clyde, and we make a big issue out of lawbreakers such as the Harrisburg Seven and Angela Davis, and when someone is striving to do something to help mankind we ostracize and condemn them. I think we really need to think through our whole value system again and change it.

I'm not plugging doctors and general practitioners this morning, but I would like to share with you another story of a doctor,

~~and a doctor.~~

(Illustration of doctor Mansfield and love for his people)

Care for statistics? Here was a man who did. Do you care for statistics? I certainly hope so. I <sup>pray</sup> ~~hope~~ that each one of us will go out and minister to those in need and to support those who need our help. And may God guide us that we may ever care for statistics so they become real live men and women who need our love, our concern and our help.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 17, 1974  
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODI MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

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ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC "JOY FILLS THE MORNING" WELLS  
"MORNING PRELUDE" OETTING

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 39 "SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL GOD, WHO HAST PROMISED MERCY AND FORGIVENESS TO ALL THEM WHO CONFESS AND FORSAKE THEIR SINS, WE COME BEFORE THEE WITH A HUMBLE SENSE OF OUR OWN UNWORTHINESS, ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ~~MANI~~FOLD TRANSGRESSIONS OF THY RIGHTEOUS LAW, IN THOUGHT, IN WORD, AND IN DEED. WE HAVE EVERY DAY DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST FORBIDDEN, AND LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST COMMANDED; SO THAT, WHEN WE LOOK UPON OUR PAST LIVES, AND REMEMBER THAT THOU KNOWEST OUR MOST SECRET SINS, WE ARE AFRAID OF THY JUDGMENTS, AND ASHAMED TO LIFT UP OUR EYES UNTO THEE. BUT, O GRACIOUS FATHER, WHO DESIREST NOT THE DEATH OF A SINNER, LOOK UPON US, WE BESEECH THEE, IN THY SON JESUS CHRIST, AND FOR THE MERITS OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BE MERCIFUL UNTO US, AND GRANT UNTO US THE FULL AND FREE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 9: 35-50

HYMN No. 213 "O LORD, TURN NOT THY FACE AWAY"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE SOSTENUTO" LUIGINI

INSTALLATION OF UNDER SHEPHERDS

ANTHEM: "AT WORSHIP" ARR. THOMPSON

SERMON: "A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 217 "ROCK OF AGES"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MARCH EXALTATION" VAN WOERT

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM L. DUTTER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT,

JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG AND JANE ARMSTRONG.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, MR. CLARENCE WOLFE - HOME HOLLY COVERT. - HOME (MRS. HOLDA LIPPA 454

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 219.

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING - 7:30

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS MEETING

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE MEETING

THURSDAY - 10:30 - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE - HOME OF MARY LOU DAVIS.

THURSDAY - 6:30 - BUTLER AREA LAYMAN'S DINNER -

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAVE CHARGE OF THE MEAL AT OUR CHURCH. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM J. WALTER HARMON AND ROBERT TAIT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GOOD ATTENDANCE.

> THE UNDER SHEPHERDS WILL HAVE A SHORT MEETING TODAY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE. ALL MATERIAL IS TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE CONGREGATION BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY. ALL YEAR BOOKS THAT WERE LEFT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY UNDER SHEPHERDS.

UP FRONT

VISITING WELCOMED

Salt necessary ingredient in our lives  
 too much is trouble, too little is trouble,  
 must have proper amount to stay healthy

vs 30a, Jesus probably talking to some fishermen &  
 they knew value of salt.  
 Fishing in Nova Scotia, St. Margarets Bay.  
 filleted fish, others in barrel, salt as preservative  
 until enuf to sell to buyer.

Js. listeners knew needed salt in hot dry climate  
 else all spoil quickly

vs 50b "Have salt in yourselves."  
 what does statement mean?  
 Anyone knows must have salt in selves, a necessity.

Literally could mean shake one of little bottles on  
 dining room table.  
 But light of Js speaking is different meaning.

Telling disc. that day well as this, preservative of  
 life must be kept constant supply each life  
 Preservative of life was, is The Christian life

Christians who lost xpian flavor cannot live, act as pre-  
~~servative~~ serving force in world

Several yrs ago man remarked, "If you have anything  
 peculiarly Christian to say at this hour, for God's  
 sake say it. If you have nothing to say but the echo  
 of what is heard on every street corner and in every  
 luncheon club in the land, for God's sake keep still."

What this man said then applies today as well, and  
 especially in many pulpits.

Dr. Carl Menninger ~~xxxxxx~~ noted psychiatrist in book  
 "What Ever Happened to Sin?", points out that we  
 would have less mental illness if people knew what sin  
 was. He states, "A strange silence coming from our  
 nation's pulpits about sin & its effects, & its con-  
 sequences upon people's lives."

Here is man deals daily with people & mental problems  
 He making remark that much mental illness avoided if  
~~preachers~~ ministers get back to old fashioned preach  
 what should be preached.

Here is a portion of salt Js talked about

In our scripture Js gives the admonition of what happen  
 to someone causing a little one to sin

I wonder how many youth & young people who have attende  
 church from 12,13 are aware of all implications of sin

## "A Salt For All Seasons!"

Text: Mark 9:50,

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness,  
 how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and  
 be at peace with one another."

In scripture Jesus had definite things to say about  
 how we live.

vs 35, be servants

vs 37, receive children, & will receive Him  
 if we refuse children we refuse Jesus

vs 40, for us or against us

no middle ground, either completely for or comp, again

Meat of message is vs 42, causing little ones to sin.

Not to do or say anything cause children sin  
 especially sobering when think of His children we  
 meet every day

We must guard all we do and say

Then He gives specifics

vs 43 (hands) keep off things, people.

watch hitting, touching, stealing  
 cut off and not let cause you to sin

vs 45 (foot) walking, stepping over proper conduct  
 cut off if causes to sin

vs 47 (eye) looking, lusting, desiring, wanting  
 pluck out if cause to sin

Or words, take all things out of your life that  
 may cause you to sin.

Stay away from people, places, things that will let  
 you fall

Avoid the temptations that will bring down to world in  
 level & its earthly pleasures

He not only warns about sin, but about punishment

vs 48, Must always be aware God God of love, but will  
 not stand by and let do as pleases

And at hour of death usher us into kingdom.

Instead he gives chance to get right and be right.

To deliberately refuse is to invite own punishment

Humorous record of salt.

Yiddish man, "Have I got salt?"

(It overflows garage, house, store etc.

"Three times a year, a salesman comes here, and  
 boy can he sell salt."

Going be called upon answer collective, personal sin?  
We need know we are sinning in our lives.  
Not one here this morning can sit back say,  
"Preacher talk about others in cong, town, not me."  
If we do, then as Apostle John says, "A liar and the  
truth not in us."

Billy Graham in Atlanta past summer.  
opposition long before he ever arrived.  
not from Non-Christian, but from clergy of mainline  
prot churches.

Sad commentary when we realize Atlanta leads nation,  
wonderful statistic of best peaches,  
leads nation in Number One City Venereal disease.

If any city needs crusade should be city with most  
immorality.

And we wonder why the strange silence coming from our  
pulpits and not speaking out against sin.

What country needs is not good 5 cent cigar as someone  
once proposed

What we need is the GOOD TEN COMMANDMENTS

This would be the Salt Js tells us have in lives

Only when Christ living in hearts & lives we have  
A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS

It is only when Christ is presented to those who are  
in need of reminding that they are sinners, that we  
have the proper salt.

Yes, it is only when the pulpits of our land once  
again have men everywhere speaking to their people  
about sin, and striving to help them to know that even  
though we are all sinners, Jesus Christ removes our  
sin, and makes us whole.

Only then will we have "A SALT FOR ALL SEASONS."

Say this because during last 6, 8 yrs involved in 3/  
Viet Nam.

During this time many preachers were voicing opinions  
about immorality of that war.

Each what said right.

But while belaboring immoral war, how many were  
striving to preach to cong. about immorality/home?

We look at "New Morality" & shocked at free love,  
pre-marital sex, communal living, wife swapping,  
young people living together no marriage,  
shake head say, "How, & why come about?"

How many of young peop involved never heard the denun-  
ciation of this kind of living as coming from Word of  
God?

How many have left church disgruntled & discouraged,  
never to hear pastor ~~talk~~ speak out against immorality  
of all kinds?

We look what I call "New Immorality" in nation, & are  
shocked peop should be trustworthy will cheat income  
tax, break in & spy, bug phones, accept bribes etc,  
& we ask, "How & why has this come about in nation?"

Yet how many of these same peop. church regularly &  
listened nice little sermons that never once caused  
them to look into their hearts & see they sinners?

How many us listened ser. race equal, been convinced  
must do something, never been told must start with  
brother next door, cross street or same house, for  
do otherwise sin.

Nation standard today make us modern Sodom Gomorrah.  
Have come believe not sin lie, cheat, steal, extort,  
bug, gossip, break into, be immoral & do all things  
word of God speaks against.

NO, ALL THESE NOT SINS, ONLY SIN IS TO GET CAUGHT.

We have glorified drunkenness, immorality, lawlessness  
& other things films & tv, & wonder why young peop  
act as they do.

We hide behind our stocks, bonds, our corps, bilt on  
sweat of thousands of poor.

Our city, state, federal officials go in office avg  
common peop, come out millionaires.

All this done in guise of respectability & NO ONE  
BOTHERS OR DARES TO STAND UP AND CRY SIN, SIN.

When I look around me at nation, our peop everywhere,  
I can't help but think there comes day of reckoning,  
& God help us when it does.



"Salt For All Seasons!"

Mark 9:50, "Salt is good; but if ~~salt~~ the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

WERE SEVERAL

Shortly after World War II there ~~was~~ humorous records <sup>AMONG THEM WAS A RECORD ABOUT SALT</sup> that came out. The man on the record talked all through it in the Yiddish dialect, and all he said had to do with salt. He said, "Salt, have I got salt?" Then he proceeded to explain that he had salt ~~in his~~ overflowing his store, his house, his garage. Everywhere he had an overabundance of salt. He remarked that he could not sell the salt, but the punch line went something like this, "Three times a year a salesman comes here, and boy can he sell salt."

Salt is a very necessary ingredient in our lives. We must have a certain amount in our bodies to remain healthy. Too much salt and we have some problems. Salt is necessary in many ways, as we shall see this morning.

~~In trying to explain a portion of our scripture for this morning we find it contains many different~~

In our text ~~about salt~~, Jesus is talking about salt. He tells His listeners that salt is good. Perhaps some of His listeners were fishermen, they knew the value of salt. In Nova Scotia this past summer we went cod fishing <sup>ON A FISHING BOAT.</sup> When we came back ~~in~~ from St. Margarets Bay, the fisherman filleted the fish we wanted and the others he cleaned and packed in large barrels in salt. This salt would act as a preservative until he had a sufficient quantity <sup>T</sup> to ship to the fish buyers.

Jesus goes on to say that salt ~~is~~ only good when it is salty, and if it loses its ~~st~~iness, then it is worthless. "How will you season it," He asks? ~~These~~ people knew what He was talking about. They understood that salt had to be salty or things would spoil more rapidly in that hot desert climate of Palestine. He told them, "Have Salt in"

"A Salt For All Seasons!"

Le. Mark 9:50, "Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

In our scripture for this morning Jesus had some very definite things to say regarding our way of living. First he tells us that we must be his servants, vs 35b. Then he tells us that we must receive children because when we do we receive Him. And if we refuse to receive children we refuse Jesus Himself. He points out that we are either for or against Him, when one of His disciples talks about others ministering in His name. Jesus lets it be known that there is no middle ground of belief. We either are completely for Him and follow Him, or we are completely against Him.

But then He really gets to the meat of His message when He says; vs 42. In other words we are not to cause any of His children to sin. We are not to do anything or say anything that will cause another to sin. This is especially stirring when we consider that we all come into contact with many of His children everyday, and that we must guard what we do and guard what we say.

Then He gives specifics for His followers. He says; vs 43 (hands) He is saying; if your hand is somewhere and it is going to sin, like stealing, or hitting someone, or touching someone in a wrong way, cut it off and do not let it cause you to sin.

vs. 45 (foot) He is saying if your foot is going to lead to a place where you will sin, or if you are going to step over the proper rules of conduct and living, then cut it off.

vs. 47 (eye) He is saying that if your eyes are going to lead you astray, that if they are going to look at things that will make you desire them wrongfully, if they are going to cause you to lust, then pluck them out. In other words by all means and as much as possible, remove the things from your life that may cause you to sin. Stay away from things and people that may cause you to stumble. Avoid the temptations that will bring you down to the level of the world and its earthly pleasures.

Jesus not only warns against the sins, but he warns that there is a punishment



for disobedience as well. vs. 48, "where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." We must always be aware that although God is a God of love, He is not going to stand by and let us do just exactly as we please and then at the hour of our death usher us into His kingdom simply because He is all loving. Instead He gives us every opportunity to get right with Him, and strive to live right and by so doing we can become a part of His kingdom. But to deliberately refuse is to invite our own punishment.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Shortly after World War II several humorous records came out. ~~XXXX~~ Among them was a record about salt. The man on the record talked all through the record in the Yiddish dialect and all he said had to do with salt. He said, "Salt, have I got salt." Then he proceeded to explain that he had an overabundance of salt. He had salt overflowing his store, his house, his garage, everywhere he had too much salt. He remarked that he had difficulty selling the salt, but the punch line was, "Three times a year, a man comes here, and boy, can he sell salt."

Salt is a very necessary ingredient in our lives. If we have too much we have problems and if we have too little we have other problems, we must have the proper amount in order to remain healthy.

Jesus told the people that "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it?" Perhaps some of His listeners were fishermen and they understood what he was saying. When we were in Nova Scotia we went Cod fishing. When we came back in from St. Margarets Bay, the fisherman filleted the fish we wanted and the rest he put into large barrels packed with salt. The salt would act as a preservative until he had a sufficient quantity to ship to the fish buyers.

Jesus listeners must have known that in the hot dry climate in which they lived, things would spoil very rapidly and readily if they were not preserved with salt.

Thus they had a very good idea of what he was saying.

But then he told them, "Have salt in yourselves."



yourselves." What could He possibly mean by that statement? This is a very strange thing for Jesus to be saying. Anyone knows that we each have salt in ourselves, and that it is a necessity of life.

Well, if we take this literally, we are thinking that we need to shake one of those little glass bottles we have on our dining room tables, and this will give us the salt we need in ourselves. But if we look at it in the light of what Jesus was really saying, then it takes on a different meaning.

He was telling His disciples of that day, as well as His followers of this day, that the preservative of life, must be kept in constant supply in each life. The preservative of life was and is, the Christian life. Christians who have lost their Christian flavor, cannot live or act in their lives as a preserving force in the world.

Several years ago a man remarked, "If you have anything peculiarly Christian to say at this hour, for God's sake say it! If you have nothing to say but the echo of what is heard on every street corner and in every luncheon club in the land, for God's sake keep still!" I think what this man said then, still applies today, and I would say that it applies to many men who occupy many pulpits in the land.

Just this past week a commentator on the radio was telling of a book written by Dr. Karl Menninger the noted psychiatrist. The title of the book is, "What Ever Happened To Sin?" In his book Dr. Menninger points out that we would have less mental illness in our nation if people knew what sin is. He states that there has been a strange silence coming from our nation's pulpits about sin and its effects, and its consequences. <sup>AND PEOPLE'S LIVES.</sup>

~~Here~~ Here is a man who deals daily with mental problems and disorders of all kinds, and he is making the remark that much mental illness could be avoided if our ministers would get back to the old fashioned task of preaching what they should be preaching. Here is a portion of that salt that Jesus was talking about.

This commentary on Dr. Menninger's book gave me my inspiration for this morning's message. I began to search the scriptures for a passage dealing with sin, and ironically I found ~~xxxx~~ this passage in Mark. I say ironically, because it tells in vivid detail of the effects of sin and what is going to happen to those who sin. In other words it speaks of a hell, and I spoke of hell last week.

For In our scripture we read of the admonition of Jesus that anyone who causes children to sin, it would be better if that person were thrown into the sea. By this we may imply that to permit sin to enter into the lives of children or youth is a very serious offence. Yet I wonder how many of our youth and young people today, who have attended church from say the age of 12 or 13, are aware of all of the implications of sin. I say this, because for the past 6 or 8 years we have been involved in that war in Viet Nam. During all of that time, many preachers were voicing their opinions as to the immorality of that war, and much of what they have said is right. But, while they have been belaboring an immoral war, how many of them have been striving to preach to their congregations of the sin of immorality here at home.

We look at what has been called the "New Morality" in our nation and we are shocked at the free love, the pre-marital sex, the communal living, the wife swapping, the living together of young people without bothering with marriage, and we shake our heads and we ask, "How, and why has this come about?" How many of the young people thus involved, never heard the denunciation of this type of living as coming from the word of God, and how many of them left the church <sup>discouraged & disillusioned</sup> never to hear their pastor speak out against immorality of all kinds?

I PREFER TO CALL  
WHO  
We look at what ~~could be termed~~ the "New Immorality" in our nation, and we are shocked that people ~~that~~ <sup>WHO</sup> should be trustworthy will stoop to cheating on their income taxes, will break into private quarters of others to spy on them, will bug their phones, will accept bribes and



will do numerous other shady things, and we ask, "How and why has this come about in our nation?" Yet, how many of these <sup>same</sup> people have gone to church regularly and listened to nice little sermons that never once caused them to look within their hearts and see that they are sinners.

How many of us have listened to sermons about racial equality and have been convinced that we must help those of minority groups, but have never been told that we must start treating that person living around or near us as a brother, for to do otherwise is a sin?

We have standards in our nation that ~~xxx~~ make us the modern day equivalent of Sodom and Gomorrah. We have come to believe that it is not a sin to lie, to cheat, to steal, to extort, to bug, to break into, to gossip, to be immoral and to do all of the things that the Word of God speaks against. No, all of these are not sins, the only sin is to get caught.

We have glorified drunkenness, immorality, lawlessness and other things in our films and on our televisions and we wonder why our young people act as they do. We hide behind our stocks and bonds, our corporations built on ~~the~~ greed and the sweat of many thousands of our poor. Our city, county, state, and federal officials go into office as average common people, and come out millionaires. All of this is done in the guise of respectability, and no one bothers or dares to stand up and cry SIN.

When I look around me at our nation, and our people everywhere, I cannot help but feel that there is going to come a day of reckoning, and God help us when it does. We are going to be called upon to answer for our collective and our personal sins, and I believe we should know that we are sinning <sup>in our LIVES.</sup> ~~when we do.~~ There isn't a one of us here this morning who can sit back and say, "Well, the preacher may be talking about many other people in our nation and here in our town, but he isn't talking about me." Because if we do, then we are as the apostle John says, "A liar and the



truth is not in us."

This past summer Billy Graham held a crusade in Atlanta Georgia. He met a tremendous amount of opposition to his ministry there, <sup>LONG</sup> <sup>1</sup> BEFORE HE EVER ~~CAME~~ APPEARED UPON THE SCENE. Now the opposition did not come from the irreligious, but it was led by none other than the clergy of many of the mainline protestant churches there and I wouldn't be surprised if the UCC led the parade. Now this is a sad commentary indeed when we stop to consider that Atlanta Georgia does not lead the nation in the wonderful statistic of growing the best peaches, but instead leads the nation as being ~~the worst city~~ the number ONE city in Venereal Disease. If any ~~nation~~ city needs to have a crusade to bring Christ into their lives, it should be the city with the most immorality. ~~From this we can see that our preachers are going to be called to reckoning when they stand before for~~ <sup>WHY</sup> And we wonder ~~the~~ the strange silence coming from our pulpits ~~against sin~~ <sup>NOT</sup> and speaking out against sin.

What this country needs is not a good 5 cent cigar as someone once proposed, what it needs is the good 10 Commandments. This would be the salt that Jesus tells us to have in our lives. It is only when we have Christ living in our hearts and our lives that we have salt for all seasons. It is only when we have Christ presented to those who are in need of reminding that they are sinners, that we have the proper salt. And yes, it is only when the pulpits of our land once again have men everywhere speaking to their people against sin, and striving to help them to know that even though we all are sinners, Jesus Christ removes our sin, and makes us whole. Only then, will we have Salt For All Seasons.

Call to Worship: God is a spirit: and they that  
worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 24, 1974  
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODI MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "FANTASIE TRIUMPHALE" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME  
WE MEET"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY GOD, WHO DOES  
SEARCH AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF MEN: GRANT US TO  
KNOW OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE; OPEN TO US THE  
CONDITION OF OUR SOULS; GIVE US PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS  
FOR OUR SINS, ENABLE US WITH STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO  
AMEND OUR LIVES; DELIVER US FROM CAPTIVITY TO FALSE  
THOUGHTS AND EVIL HABITS, THAT WITH UNITY OF MIND AND  
PEACE OF CONSCIENCE WE MAY HAVE OUR FULL RECONCILIATION  
WITH YOU, AND BE OF THE BLESSED COMPANY OF ALL YOUR  
FAITHFUL PEOPLE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 4: 1-14

HYMN No. 381 "FLING OUT THE BANNER!"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (STATEMENT OF FAITH)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "TRAUMERE!"

SCHUMANN

ANTHEM: "THE CHILDREN'S HYMN OF PRAISE" RASLEY

SERMON: "THIRSTY HEARTS?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 278 "O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET  
ME GO"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

HOPKINS

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
THE FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*DON KINGSLEY, DAVID  
CURTIS, GEORGE PFLUGH AND JAMES MCCLYMONDS.

DEACON AND MRS. MIKE NAZARUK WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

TUESDAY - 7:30 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - ASH WEDNESDAY - HOLY COMMUNION  
(PEW) - THE SERMON TOPIC WILL BE "A CHANGE".

FRIDAY - 6:30 - WORK NIGHT TO PAINT THE LARGE ROOM  
IN THE UNDERCROFT. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET  
THAT WAY IT DOESN'T TAKE ANYONE EVERY LONG. THE MEN  
ARE TO BRING DROP CLOTHS, ROLLERS (NECESSITY) AND  
BRUSHES. THE WOMEN WILL CLEAN THE CUPBOARDS AND  
DO OTHER WORK. WE WANT IT NICE FOR THE RECEIPTION  
TO FOLLOW ORDINATION.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE MARCH 10, AT 7:30 P.M. FOR THE  
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW MINISTER.

MARCH 17 IS STILL OPEN FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - IF YOU  
WISH TO HAVE THIS SUNDAY - PLEASE LET BEA TAIT KNOW.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 235.

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL BE PIANIST FOR THE YOUTH  
CHOIR TODAY. MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT WILL DIRECT THE  
YOUTH CHOIR.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. EDWARD WETCHEY, MRS. HOMER FILSON, 261

MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY, MRS. HULDA LIPPOLD. 454

WE WILL BE RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS SOON - IF YOU KNOW  
OF ANY PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PLEASE PUT THEIR NAME  
AND ADDRESS IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR GIVE TO THE  
MINISTER.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH - WED. - FEB. 27 - HOLY COMMUNION.  
COME ALL SERVICED, LEAVE THE SELF - CLEAN.  
WELCOME VISITORS



(Illustration Nikita Krushev)

Here 2 exmp. of indiv. who've spent money for that which not bread, & to work for that which does not satisfy.

1. one known entertainer, other world leader  
What is end result of life lived that way?  
For Mastroianni living in dream world  
For Krushev life of disappointment & disillusion  
Spent last day isolation in native Russia  
For all intents & purposes prisoner of very system he helped shape & mold.

So it is with men who place allegiance in things of world.

Woman came Jesus at well of Jacob

He told her that whoever drinks of that water will thirst again.

But whoever drank of water He gave would never thirst  
Js. really saying what Isa said so many yrs before vs. 1

Prophet then spoke on to listeners & told them vs 2b - 3a

He is telling them to listen carefully what he saying  
They are to be eating & digesting proper food & diet  
Does not mean just physical food, but spiritual as well

End result is a blessing of fatness

Not that spiritual food would make fat,  
but way saying if do things should do, & listen to what God saying thru prophet, will have happiness of living in fulness or fatness of Lord.

in fatness used describe rich life, good life.  
this term opp. of leanness in OT  
leanness spoke of hardship, poverty, bad times etc.  
Fatness, ease & luxury

Isa saying, "Listen to what I say, hear me, & if do soul shall live  
Merely another means to come to God & get right with Him once more.

Js said woman at well, same as Isa only slightly diff way

Isa expressing desires have listeners come to God  
drink of God's water for saving their souls

Js saying, Come to Him, for He was that living water of God, & they would have eternal life thru Him.

## Thirsty Hearts

Text Isaiah 55:1-3a,

In America we consume about 30 gal. water per day per person.  
We do not drink that much, but this avg. for wash, cook, drink etc.

Peop. Israel & Egypt not accustomed this luxury  
During time Isaiah vendors walked streets of Near & Middle East selling water.

Even today they still do.

The cry of vs 1, Ho every one who thirsts, come to the waters," must have been a familiar one.

Isaiah uses phrase in invitation to people come forth & have needs supplied.

They could picture in mind eye man coming down street with water jars either on cart or drawn, or on shoulders, & supplying people's needs

It would conjure up in imaginations the times when they waited turn to receive some of precious liquid  
But how could they possibly buy without money?  
It simply not being done.

When the prophet continues to invite to buy wine & Milk without price vs. 1b

It becomes evident he is offering more than milk wine, and water.

The commodity is without price.

In other words it is priceless, cannot have value placed on it, it is so precious.

Now that he has gotten their attention, he asks the thought provoking question, vs 2a

Perhaps Isa. paused & gave several examples.

Could told of king wanted all ground around palace to make beautiful.

Was able buy all ground except one vineyard  
When went to man he refused.

Evil wife plotted, & had man murdered  
Thus King Ahab got his desire, & "spent money for that which could not satisfy."

Or he may of told of another king, who looked upon beauty of another man's wife.

His desire so great, he too plotted death of that man

Thus King David got heart's desire, & labored for what which did not satisfy.

Or we could look at own times & days & parallel these incidents with story of Italian Clark Gable, Marcello Mastroianni illustration of him.

We living in world searching & seeking 3/  
As has never sought before  
B. Graham has called it a ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Relig. Revol.  
(Quote by B. Graham)

All round us see evidence this search  
Peop striving all ways find answers life's problems  
Some seek thru gurus & mystics  
Others Buddhism & other secret cults & sects.  
But in all this activity is desire find meaning  
of life  
To find rest for their souls.

(Illustration of Danish boy & Girl suicide).

Many peop unable find answers to complexities life,  
seek find it in next, by taking own lives  
Unfortunately many succeed  
still many others are being rescued by concerned  
committed peop

This examp only 1 of many in which indiv. involved  
have thirsty hearts.

Hearts parched & dry  
cracked from lack of living water, can only come  
from God.

They seeking slake thirst in all possible ways  
but have only found things of this world like eating  
too much salt.

The more salty food we eat, more thirsty we become.

Think of millions of thirsty hearts this day.. that  
are panting to have someone say to them,

"Ho every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and  
he who has no money, come, buy and eat."

(Illustration of priest & penitent man)

Perhaps some of us are in position where have thirsty  
hearts, & are involved in search for God

Perhaps may be feeling alone & lost in the crowd

Do you have a thirsty heart oday?

"HO EVERY ONE WHO THIRSTS, COME TO THE WATERS."

COME TO HIM WHO ~~KILLXINXKILLINXKILLINX~~ IS THE WAY,  
THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

COME TO HIM WHO WILL GIVE, "LIVING WATER, WELLING UP  
TO ETERNAL LIFE."

"TUNE UP YOUR EAR, AND COME TO HIM; HEAR, THAT YOUR  
SOUL MAY LIVE."



"Thirsty Hearts?"

Text: Isaiah 55:1-3a,

"Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live."

Did you know that in America at the last survey made, Americans consume 30 gallons of water per day. This does not mean that we each drink that much, but that is the average figure for washing, cooking cleaning bathing and so on. People from nations such as Israel and Egypt do not have this type of luxury. During the time of Isaiah, vendors would walk the streets of the cities of the Near and Middle East, selling water. Even today we are told they still do this.

The cry of "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters," <sup>extending</sup> must have been a very familiar one. Isaiah uses this phrase in ~~telling~~ the ~~people~~ invitation to the people to come forth and have their needs supplied. They could picture in their mind's eye, the man coming down the street with the water jars either on a cart being drawn by an ox, or upon his shoulders, and supplying the needs of the people. It would conjure up in their imaginations, the times when they waited their turn to receive some of that precious liquid. But how could they possibly come and buy without money. This was simply not being done.

When the prophet continues to invite them to buy wine and milk without money and without price, it becomes evident that he is offering them something more than just wine and milk and water. The commodity is without price. In other words it is priceless, it cannot ~~be~~ have a value placed upon it, it is so precious.

Now that he has gotten their attention, he asks the very thought provoking question, "Why do you spend your money for that which

is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"

Perhaps Isaiah paused here and <sup>gave</sup> ~~told~~ them several examples. He could have told them about a certain king who wanted all of the ground around the palace to make the palace grounds beautiful. He was able to buy up all of the property, except the vineyard of one man. When he went to the man, the man refused to give it up. So the evil wife of the king plotted and had the man murdered. Thus the <sup>King Ahab</sup> ~~king~~ got his desire, and he spent his money and his substance for that which could not satisfy.

Or he may have told him of another king, who looked upon the beauty of another man's wife, and his desire for her was so great, that he too plotted the death of that man. Thus King David got his heart's desire, and labored for that which did not satisfy.

Or we could look at our own times and days and parallel these incidents with the story of Marcello Mastroianni, who has often been called the Italian Clark Gable. Everywhere he goes the ladies swoon over him, and heap adulation at his feet. Yet, in an interview several years ago he confessed: (Illustration of Mastroianni)

Roy MacGregor Hastie wrote a biography of Nikita Krushchev, and in it he wrote, (Illustration of Krushchev)

Now here are two recent examples of individuals who have sought to spend money for that which was not bread, and to work for that which does not satisfy. One a well known entertainer, the other a world leader. And what is the end result of a life lived in such a way? For Mastroianni it is living in a dream world, where there is no meaning or purpose to life. For Krushchev it became a life of disillusionment, as he spent his last days in isolation in his native Russia. He was for all intents and purposes a prisoner of the very form of government he helped to shape and mold.

So it is with all men who place their allegiance in the things of this world. A woman came to Jesus at the well of Jacob,



and He told her that whoever would drink of that water would thirst again, But, whoever drank of the water that He gave, would never thirst. Jesus was really saying in another way exactly what Isaiah had said so many years before. "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The prophet then spoke on to his listeners and he told them, "Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in fatness." Incline your ear, and come to me; hear; that your soul may live." He is telling them to listen very carefully to what he is saying. They are to be eating and digesting the proper food and diet. He does not mean just physical food, but spiritual food. The end result of this would be that they would have a blessing of fatness. This does not mean that the spiritual food would make them fat. It is a way of saying that if they do the things they should ~~do~~, and ~~they~~ listen to what God is saying through His prophet, they will have the happiness of living in the fulness, or the fatness of the Lord. The term fatness, In the O.T. the opposite term leanness meant hardship, poverty, bad times etc. It was a term that spoke of ease and luxury.

Isaiah was saying, "Listen to what I say, hear me and if you do your soul shall live." It was merely another means of urging them to come to God and to get right with Him once more.

Jesus said to the woman at the well that "the water He would give would ~~well~~ become in a person a spring of water welling up to eternal life." He was saying the same thing as Isaiah, only in a slightly different way. Isaiah was expressing the desire to have his listeners come to God and drink of God's water for the saving of their souls, and Jesus was saying to come to Him, for He was that living water of God, and they would have eternal life through Him.

We are living in a world that is searching and seeking as it has never sought and searched before. Billy Graham has called it a

"Religious Revolution." He says; (Quote by Billy Graham)

All around us we see signs of this search, People are striving in all ways and ~~XXXXXX~~ means to find the answers to life's problems. Some are seeking it through Gurus and mystics. Others through Buddhism. Still others in secret cults and sects. But in all of this activity is the desire to find the meaning of life, and to find rest for their souls.

(Illustration of Danish boy and girl suicide)

Many people, unable to find the answers to the complexities of this life, seek to find it in the next, by taking their own lives. Unfortunately many succeed, but still many others are being rescued by concerned and committed people.

This example is only one of many in which the individuals involved ~~are thirsting for the answer to life~~ have thirsty hearts. Their hearts are dry and parched, and cracked from a lack of the living water that can only come from God. They are seeking to slake their thirst in all possible ways, but they have only found that the things of this world are much like eating too much salt. The more salty food we eat, the more thirsty we become.

Think of the millions of thirsty hearts this day, that are panting to have someone say to them, "Ho, every one of you who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!"

(Illustration of the penitent man and the priest)

Perhaps some of us may be in the position where we have thirsty hearts, and are involved in the search for God. Perhaps we may be feeling lost and alone amidst the crowd. Do you have a "Thirsty Heart," today? "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters." Come to Him, who is "The way, the truth, and the life." Come to Him who will give living water, welling up to eternal life." "Incline your ear, and come to Him; hear, that your soul may live."



"A Change!"

Text: II Chronicles 7:14,

"MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

In 7th chap of 2 Chron is story of Solomon completing Temp of God prior

Actually, in several chaps ~~before~~ this Temp completed Chap 7 merely begins tell what happen after pr of dedi.

God causes fire come from heaven & consumes offerings brot to Temp.

When peop saw, they bowed selves to ground & worship saying, ~~xxx vs 2b~~

The fear of Lord came upon them & they acknowledged G. Told Sol offered huge sacrifices vs 5 And so House of God was dedicated.

They then came to Temp & with instruments made joyful noise

They made 7 day celebration for dedication

Then 7 day feast after

On 8th day following, or actually 15th day,

Sol sent all back to homes

Then we read, Sol finished all he had planned to do, & God appears to him at night & says, vs12,

God is saying the House is acceptable to Him

Then comes qualifying statement by God vs 13-14

The promise is conditional, IF MY PEOPLE.

It is not I WILL, but IF.

He will only bless IF they willing be humble,

IF willing pray,

IF willing seek His face,

IF willing forsake evil & seek good.

Then, & only then will He hear & forgive, & heal

What God is seeking is "A Change."

He doesn't want them be same old peop time after time

He doesn't want them come Temp off er sac for forgive  
Only go away do same old thing time after time

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

JODIE MARTE, GORDON KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

HOLY COMMUNION - 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "Lenten Prelude in A Minor" REED

SILENT MEDITATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 51 "ABIDE WITH ME"

\*INVOCATION AND PRAYERS

CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATT. 5: 14-24

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*EVENING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "PRAYER OF FAITH"

MARTIN

ANTHEM: "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

BERNARD

SERMON: "A CHANGE!"

COMMUNION HYMN No. 204 "BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE"

COMMUNION SERVICE - PAGE 32

EXHORTATION - CONFESSION - ABSOLUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SERAPHIC HYMN

THE INSTITUTION - CHORAL AMEN

AGNUS DEI

HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE WITH PASTOR)

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - DOXOLOGY

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 56 "NOW THE DAY IS OVER"

\*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE" CALKEN

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S RECORD WILL BE ACCURATE. IF VISITORS DESIRE TO RECEIVE CREDIT AT THEIR HOME CHURCH, PUT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EITHER YOUR PASTOR OR YOUR CHURCH ON THE BACK OF THE CARD AND IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY - MARCH 1st. AT 7:30 -

EVANGELICAL ARMY CITADEL, 142 W. CUNNINGHAM ST.

USERS WILL PASS OUT COMMUNION CARDS AT THE DOOR.

3/

Families began speaking other families,  
 Soon some went to merchants told of shoplifting &  
 throwing.  
 Made restitution  
 Very soon whole city involved,  
 A revival of trust, honesty, concern & care.  
 The soon spread other areas until it has swept Canada  
 All because several members looked within own hearts.  
 This God is calling us to do tonite.  
 He is asking look deep into self before partake Comm.  
 If find hatred toward other member family, confess  
 it & forgive that person.  
 If find hatred or grudge against another man wong,  
~~xxxxxxx~~ confess it & forgive that pers  
 We to search very souls & not only seek forgiveness  
 but to grant it.

If we ~~xxx~~ are Christian enuf tonite to forgive someone  
 we should not only do this, but let that other person  
 know about it.  
 In this way we can open that person up to the HS, so  
 that the healing power of the HS may work in him or h

I think God is looking at us tonite as we worship,  
 He saying as said in 16th vs,  
 Only He is saying to each individually tonite,  
 "You are a temple that I have chosen in which to  
 dwell. I have chosen you as a house of sacrifice,  
 and if you, my people who are called by my name  
 will humble yourselves, and pray and seek my face,  
 and turn from your wicked ways, then I will hear  
 from heaven, and I will forgive your sins and heal  
 ur land."

He is saying, welcome to my Supper in memory of my Son.  
 But partake of it worthily.  
 Forgive others tonite, & I will forgive you.  
 He is asking each of us for "A CHANGE."

2/

Tonite begin penitential journey of Lent  
 will lead us thru passion of Lord & Saviour JC  
 Each Wed. will look different direction of Js.  
 Each Sun look at new Act passion play, as unfolds  
 before eyes in Scripture  
 All will culminate in death on Good Fri,  
 & then the glorious RESURRECTION on Easter  
 I hope all of you will strive not to miss a thrilling  
 episode as it unfolds before our eyes. end  
 Scrip for eve was not delivered by Js at ~~beg~~ of min,  
 but at beg, in Ser, on Mt.

Js telling practical things  
 telling, observe comm.  
 He reinterprets commandments.

Says, if angry with broth almost same as angry & kill  
 Are not insult broth or call him fool,  
 if do, are subject wrath & condemnation of God.  
 If come altar, bring gift, remember have something  
 against broth, or against any other person actual  
 1st get reconciled & then bring gift

paraphrased this admonition would read,  
 "If you come to church to take communion & to observ  
 my last supper, & while you are sitting there remembe  
 that you have hatred in your heart for someone, or yo  
 remember that you have said you will not forgive some  
 one for something he or she has done, or if you know  
 of someone who hates you & bears you ill-will, you  
 must first pray for that person, or pray that you may  
 find forgiveness in your heart toward those other  
 people or God will not forgive you."

Js saying if want forgive, must 1st forgive.  
 If u come Lord's Supper seeking forgiveness for sin,  
 (Which, what it is for),  
 U must be willing forgive forget all wrongs, hatred  
 spites U have held in past.  
 Only when we show forgiveness can we be forgiven.

Perhaps never looked at it in this life  
 but it can effect change & bring about revival that  
 defies description

Sermon preached on this very subject  
 several peop of that cong thru HS working in them,  
 went to others they had offended or toward whom held  
 ill-will.  
 Others spoke to peop never spoken many yrs same famil  
 Reunions sprung up, peop talked, laughed, loved



"A Change!"

Text: II Chronicles 7:14,

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-24.

In the 7th chapter of the book of II Chronicles is a story of Solomon completing the Temple of God. Actually in several chapters previous to this he had completed the Temple and chapter 7 begins telling what happens after he had prayed the prayer of dedication.

God causes fire to come down from heaven to consume the offerings that had been brought to the Temple. When the people saw what was taking place they bowed themselves down to the ground and worshiped God saying, vs. 3b, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." The fear of the Lord came upon them and they acknowledged the Lord.

We are told that Solomon offered huge sacrifices to God and the house of God was dedicated. They came to the Temple and brought the instruments to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We read that this was a very joyful occasion and they held a seven day celebration for the dedication and a seven day feast following that. So on the 8th day or actually the 15th day after the celebrating had begun, Solomon sent them all back to their homes. Solomon is overjoyed because of the blessings of God. And we read that Solomon had finished all that he had planned to do and God appears to Solomon at night and says to him, vs. 12, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice." In other words God is saying that this house is acceptable to Him and the sacrifices that are made there will be acceptable to Him.

But then God makes a qualifying statement about all of this. He says, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

But this promise is conditional. It is IF MY PEOPLE. God is saying that He will only bless it if they are willing to be humble, If they are willing to pray, If they are willing to seek His Face, or to look to Him for their help and not rely on human beings. IF they are willing to forsake evil and seek good. Only then will God hear them and forgive ~~them~~ their sins, and heal their land.

What God is seeking from them is "A Change." He doesn't want them to be the same old people time after time. He doesn'T want them to ~~come~~ come to the Temple and offer their sacrifices for forgiveness only to go away and do the same old thing time after time.

Tonight we once again begin a penitential journey that will lead us through the passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday we will be looking at a different direction that the life of Jesus took during this period. Each Sunday we will be looking at a new act from the Passion play that unfolds before our eyes in the Scriptures. All of this will culminate in the tragic death on Good Friday, but in the glorious Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. I hope all of you will strive not to miss a thrilling episode of this drama as it unfolds before our eyes.

The Scripture that we read for this evening was not delivered by Jesus during the latter days of His ministry, but was instead delivered at the very beginning of it. This Scripture is taken from the Sermon on the Mount. In it Jesus is telling the people some very practical things. He is telling them for instance to observe the commandments. But then he goes into depth and re-interprets the commandments.

He says that mere anger with your brother is just about the same as actually getting angry and killing him. He says that we are not to insult our brother or call him a fool, because if we do we are liable to condemnation and the wrath of God. He says that if we come to the altar to bring our gift and realize while there that we have something against



another person, or another person holds ill-will toward us, we are to first get reconciled with that brother and then come and bring our gift to the altar. If we paraphrased this and made it read something like this, "If you come to church to take communion and observe my last Supper, and while you are sitting there remember that you have hatred in your heart for someone, or you remember that you have said you will not forgive someone for something he or she has done, or if you know of someone who hates you and bears you ill-will, you must pray first for that person, or pray that you may find forgiveness in your heart toward that other person, or else God will not forgive you," Jesus is saying that if you want forgiveness you must first forgive. If you come to the Lord's Supper ~~which~~ seeking forgiveness for your sins, which is what the Lord's Supper is for, then you must be willing to forgive and forget all wrongs and hatreds and spites that you have held in the past. It is only when we show forgiveness, that we are forgiven.

Perhaps we have never looked at it in this light, but it can effect a change and bring about a revival that defies ~~any~~ description.

A sermon was preached on this very subject in Canada and the Holy Spirit as (Check on this illustration) is so often the case, began to work in the hearts of a few people in that assembled congregation. Several who held grudges against other members, went to them and confessed their hatreds. Others who had not spoken to another member of their own family went to them and confessed this sin, and were reunited. Still others who had stolen and shoplifted, went to the merchants and confessed their crime and promised to repay the ~~items~~ owner for the stolen ~~items~~ items. Very soon, a revival of trust and honesty, and love was sweeping across an entire city. It soon spread to the surrounding area. All because several people in a local congregation were moved by the Holy Spirit of God to look within their hearts and to change.

This is what God is calling us to do today, tonight. He is asking us to look ~~within~~ deep within ourselves, before we partake of this Lord's Supper. And if we should find that we have a hatred for a member of

our immediate family, He is seeking us to confess it and to forgive that person. He is asking us if we have a grudge we hold against a member of this church family, we are to confess it and to ask for forgiveness. He is asking us to search our very souls and to not only ask for forgiveness by to grant it. If we find that we have not forgiven someone tonight and we find it in our hearts to forgive them, we should also let them know, so that the Holy Spirit may work its healing power in them as well.

I think God is looking at us tonight as we worship here, and He is saying in effect to each of us, "You are a Temple that I have chosen in which to dwell. I have chosen you as a house of sacrifice, and if you, my people who are called by my name will humble yourselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from your wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive your sins and heal your land." ~~He is asking for each of us for, "A Change!"~~

He is saying welcome to my Supper in memory of My Son, but partake of it worthily. Forgive others tonight and I will forgive you. He is asking each of us for, "A Change!"



Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his  
benefits,

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 3, 1974

MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, SHARI McBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "Nocturne" LEYBACH  
"CHANSON FRIESTE" TSCHAIOWSKY

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 136 "HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,  
OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE  
AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR  
ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO BEAT DOWN THOSE WHO ARE  
WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT;  
FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR  
HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT  
OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF GREAT  
CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER THAN  
IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR  
SAVIOR AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 12: 1-17

HYMN No. 133 "RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY!"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"ELEGY"

MASSENET

ANTHEM: "THE PALMS" BY FAURE CHOIR, DICK BARTON

SERMON: "TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 138 "WHEN, HIS SALVATION BRINGS"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL"

BARNES

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FLEEGER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KANIER, CHARLES PENAR.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE

DOOR TODAY.

\*HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON 261; MRS. VIVIAN

BILAM 264; RICHARD NICHOLAS 388; MRS. HULDA LIPPOLD

454; MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY ~~688~~ - BCMH. MRS. CHARLES

(ELEANOR) McWILLIAMS IS IN BASHLINE HOSP. GROVE CITY.

\*TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR

7:30 - YOUTH MEETING - EACH YOUTH IS ASKED

\*TO BRING A PAIR OF SCISSORS.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

\*WEDNESDAY - 7:00 - LENTEN SERVICE - "HIS FAITH"

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE

HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

\*LAST SUNDAY THE ATTENDANCE WAS 187 - WED. EVENING

LENTEN SERVICE WE HAD 156 IN ATTENDANCE.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON STAUFFER,

LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE McBRIDE.

REMEMBER NEXT SUNDAY EVENING AT 7:30 P.M. - ORDINATION

AND INSTALLATION OF OUR PASTOR - HERE AT OUR CHURCH

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN THE SOCIAL ROOMS DOWNSTAIRS.

THE LILY CHART IS IN THE NARTHEX - IT WILL SOON BE

TIME TO ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER. SHOULD YOU WANT

ONE FOR THIS SUNDAY - WRITE YOUR NAME AND IN WHOSE

MEMORY YOU WANT IT ON THE SLIP.

\*REMEMBER WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE WILL BE

AT 7:00 INSTEAD OF 7:30 THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF COUNCIL

MEETING.

WELCOME VISITORS

"O Jeru, Jeru, killing the prophets & stoning those 2/  
who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered  
your children together as a hen gathers her brood under  
her wings and you would not."

And a nother chap of Luke we read He wept over city  
Butw with all his involvment with Jeru, becomes  
s? dantly clear he well aware course upon which he  
has embarked one of hatred & hostility for him.

He realized at earlier point of life, he on collision  
course with authorities.

He told disc "That he was going up to Jerusalem &  
there he would suffer many things at the hands of the  
chief priest and scribes and gentiles."

Triumphal entry into Jeru just beg of very eventful  
& action packed week in life of Js.

If we can let minds wander a little & try visualize  
scene before us, I am sure we can almost hear the  
swelling roar of crowd as he turns bend in road.

All eyes intent upon road, anxiously awaiting 1st  
glimpse this dynamic preacher.

All necks and heads, craning & straining to see him  
more clearly when he appears.

From roar of crowd up road he is passing by there now  
& will appear any moment now.

Now our turn to shout Hosanna even as they have done  
for there he is riding slowly past our line of visio

Why he doesn't look like much of anything.

Just common looking man wearing common looking clothes  
but yet, with air of regal poise about him.

A man who does indeed command our attention, & yet he  
ap ars as tho he could mingle with any of us, just as  
other peop have said.

He now passing beyond our sight & on down road, where  
crowd waving, cheering, shouting, throwing palm branches  
into path of slowly plodding donkey.

This scene would make anyone pause & reflect, if indeed  
all crowd participating because in agreement with this  
man

& they actually believed he was the one who came in the  
name of the Lord.

Was he really Messiah to them?

Was this promised Son of David?

Was this deliverer of Israel?

Mc othen likely bulk of crowd there because impromptu  
parade had gotten started

Some sort local yokel was causing a stir.

## "Tragedy To Triumph!"

### Act I. "A City"

Text Mark 11:11,

"And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the Temple;  
and when he had looked round at everything, as it was  
already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"All the world's a stage, and all the men & women merel  
players," so wrote Wm. Shakespeare in Merry Wives of  
Windsor.

If all world stage, then Js & peop of his time were  
also actors upon scene even as we.

We can lakk our lives being acted out & also see Js  
minis. took aspects of 1 legge drama.

But rather than look total minis. let us look only  
at portion of life that transpired during last week  
of his life.

Let us look as tho play unfolding before eyes,  
act by act, scene by scene.

This series Tragedy To Triumph, a play in 7 acts.

To day we will look at A City, Jerusalem.

Will be follow script in chronological order,  
in case u wondering why Palm Sunday today.

When we eventually come Palm Sunday, hope will be  
evident there is set purpose & meaning for presenting  
this series in its proper ~~xxx~~ sequence.

Jerusalem for Js very significant place.

Here He first brot as baby, so mom could be purified  
according Jewish law concerning woman & childbirth

( ; also here Simeon took babe in arms & blessed him.  
Perhaps 1st time Mary began understand all of attent

to son, not accidental.

In Jeru. Js separated from parents, then found in  
deep theo discussion with leaders & teachers in Temp.

To Jeru he now returning & where he acclaimed as  
Messiah, the one who came, "In the name of the Lord

To Temp at Jeru he would return sever times last  
Jeru days

Also to ~~Temp~~ he taken & tried by Pilate  
Outside walls Jeru executed & also buried

So all in all city of Jeru very impott in life of Js  
of Nazareth

I he was also concerned about city

In Matt 23, Luke 13 Js laments over Jeru, says,



For Js it trail by testing  
tested his strength, faith, love

What will this lenten period test in us?  
Will we look at selves in new light?

Will we examine closely our faith & how measures up  
to faith of Js.?

Will we test strength by forgoing pleasure of life  
in self-denial for a worthy Christian cause?  
Will we test our love by renewed dedication to  
church of Jesus Christ?

Or, will it be HO HUM, another boring period that  
involves a lot of extra cleaning, & cooking & fussing  
building up to another big holiday at Easter?

You & I are on stage of life at present time.

We involved very deeply whether want be or not, in  
the play leading from Tragedy To Triumph.

Today we shout Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.

Is the end result that we too shout "Crucify Him,  
Crucify Him" a few days later?"

May we not only acclaim him as Lord at this time of  
the year, but may we acclaim him each day of our lives,  
May we too know and feel and believe with the author of  
Hebrews that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and  
today and for ever.

His political adherents were showing him off to popul<sup>3</sup>  
because town crowded tourists & peop there to celebrat<sup>3</sup>  
feast of pass.

So why not join in with the celebration & raise a  
hosannas along with rest local residents

Out of this several things emerge very clearly

Not merely taking joy ride down main st. Jeru  
he was acting in fulfillment of prophecy made many  
years before by Zechariah,

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud,  
O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant & victorious is he, humble and riding on an  
ass, on a colt the foal of an ass."

Then secondly setting stage for future actions.

As he rode along must been thinking things thru &  
looking situation over very carefully.

Probably well aware, many, many these voices raised  
in praise to him, would be shouting for his blood  
few days.

Instead, warm friendly smiles, & happy shouts acclaim  
probably able visualize sneers, jeers mixed angry  
curses, that would replace these happy moments,  
when he handed over to authorities.

He able to see crowd is fickle in loyalties  
one day acclaiming him as national hero

next it would acclaim him as public enemy number 1

& So in scripture in Mark 11, we told matter of factly,  
"He entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple; and  
when he had looked round at everything, as it was al-  
ready late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"He looked at everything in the Temple," makes the  
picture rather interesting at this point.

Why would he look at everything?

What was he looking for?

From the events next several days, evident he doing som  
checking on conditions at Temp & plotting next moves.

When a man contemplating decision will have affect on  
rest of life, he does so with very careful, serious,  
deliberate consideration.

& so Js must have been doing this when "He looked at  
everything."

So 1st act has come quickly to close, & all actors have  
left stage & are settled in Bethany for the night.

Th<sup>3</sup> once again we embarked on journey of Lent.

For each of us should be new adventure self-examination

<sup>70</sup>  
"Tragedy ~~and~~ Triumph!"

Act I. Jerusalem

Text: Mark 11:11, "And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked ~~at~~ round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve."

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." So wrote William Shakespeare in his play, "The Merry Wives of Windsor." If all the world is indeed a stage, then Jesus and the people of his time were also actors upon the scene even as we. We can look upon our lives as being acted out and we can also see that Jesus' ministry took on the aspects of one large drama. But rather than look upon the total life and ministry of Jesus, let us instead look only at that portion of His life <sup>WHICH</sup> ~~that~~ transpired during the last week of His life. Let us look at it as though it is a play unfolding before our eyes, Act by Act, and Scene by Scene.

I have entitled this series, "Tragedy <sup>TO</sup> ~~and~~ Triumph," a play in seven acts. Today we will look at act one which is Jerusalem. We will be following the script in chronological order, in case you are wondering why we <sup>ARE</sup> using the Palm Sunday story and events today. When we come to Palm Sunday I hope it will <sup>BECOME</sup> self evident that there <sup>IS A SET</sup> ~~is involved~~ <sup>PURPOSE & MEANING FOR PRESENTING THIS SERIES IN ITS PROPER SEQUENCE.</sup> ~~is involved in the series to tell the story of Jesus' life and death~~. Jerusalem was for Jesus a very significant place. It was here that he was first brought as a baby, after 7 days, so that His mother Mary could be purified <sup>ACCORDING TO</sup> ~~according to~~ the Jewish law concerning a woman involved in childbirth. We find this recorded in the 2nd chapter of Luke. We also read there how Simeon the aged, devout man, took Jesus in his arms and blessed him. And how perhaps for the first time Mary began to understand that all of this attention to her son was not accidental. It was also in Jerusalem that Jesus became separated from His parents at the age of 12. I am sure we all remember the story of how they came looking for Him only to find Him involved ~~with~~ in deep theological discussion with the leaders and teachers in the temple.



It was to Jerusalem that He was now returning, and where He was acclaimed as the Messiah, the one who came, "In the name of the Lord." ~~It was from Jerusalem that He would be later taken and executed outside its walls.~~ It was to the temple in Jerusalem that he would return several times in His last days. It was also to Jerusalem that He was taken to be tried by Pilate. It was just outside the walls of Jerusalem that He was executed and buried.

So all in all the city of Jerusalem was very important in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. But He was also concerned about this city. We read in Matthew 23 and Luke 13, how Jesus laments over Jerusalem, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ~~stony~~ killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and you would not!"

And in another chapter of Luke the 19<sup>th</sup> we read that He wept over the city. But with all of His involvement with Jerusalem, it becomes abundantly clear, that He was well aware that the course upon which He had embarked was one of hatred and hostility for Him. He realized at an earlier point in His life that His was a collision course with the authorities because He told His disciples that He was going up to Jerusalem and there He would suffer many things at the hands of the chief priests and scribes and gentiles."

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was just the beginning of a very eventful and action packed week in the life of Jesus. If we can let our minds wander a little and try to visualize the scene before us, I am sure that we can almost hear the swelling roar of the crowd as he turns a bend in the road and all eyes are intent upon the road, anxiously awaiting the first glimpse of this dynamic preacher. All necks are strained and craning to see Him when He does appear. And from the roar of the crowd up the road He is passing <sup>BY THERE</sup> ~~He~~ now and will <sup>APPEAR</sup>

at any moment now. Now it is our turn to shout Hosanna even as they have just done, for there He is riding slowly past our line of vision. Why He doesn't look like much of anything. Just a common looking man wearing common looking clothes, but yet with an air of regal poise about Him. A man who does indeed command our attention, and yet He appears as though He could mingle with any of us just as people have said. He is now passing beyond our sight and on down the road where the crowd is waving and cheering and shouting as they too throw their palm branches into the path of the slowly plodding donkey.

The scene would make anyone pause and reflect, if indeed all of the crowd were participating because they were in agreement with this man and they actually believed He was one who came in the name of the Lord. Was He really the Messiah to them? Was this the promised Son of David? Was this the deliverer of Israel? More than likely the bulk of the crowd were there simply because some sort of impromptu parade had gotten started. Some sort of local yokel was causing a stir, and his political adherents were showing him off to the populace because the town was crowded with tourists and people there to celebrate the feast of the Passover. So why not join in with the celebration and raise a few Hosanna's along with the local residents?

SEVERAL THINGS EMERGE VERY CLEARLY.

But out of all of this ~~all these things emerge very clearly~~, Jesus was not merely taking a joy ride down the main street of Jerusalem. He was first acting in fulfillment of a prophecy made many years before by Zechariah, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass." Then He was secondly setting the stage for His future actions. As He rode along He must have been thinking things through and looking the situation over very carefully. He was probably very well aware that many, many of these voices raised in praise to Him, would be shouting for



~~But~~ His blood in a few days. Instead of the ~~smiles~~ warm friendly smiles, and the happy shouts of acclamation, He was probably able to visualize the sneers and jeers mixed with the angry curses that would replace these happy moments when He was handed over to the authorities. He was able to see that a crowd is fickle in its loyalties, that one day it was acclaiming Him as a national hero and the next it would acclaim Him as public enemy number one.

And so we are told that he matter of factly, "Entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve." "He looked at everything in the temple," makes the scripture rather interesting at this point. Why would He look at everything? What was He looking for? Well, from the events of the next several days, it would appear that He was doing some checking on the conditions at the temple and plotting his next moves.

When a man is contemplating a decision that will have an affect on the rest of his life, he does so with very careful and serious consideration. And so Jesus must have been doing this when "he looked at everything."

So the first act has quickly come to a close and we find that all the actors have left the stage and are settled in Bethany for the night. Thus once again we are embarked on the journey of Lent. For each of us it should be an adventure of self-examination. For Jesus it was a trial by testing. It tested His faith, His strength and His love. What will this Lenten period test in us? Will we look at ourselves in a new and different light? Will we examine closely our faith and how it measures up to the faith of Jesus? Will we test our strength by foregoing some of the pleasures of life in self-denial for a worthy Christian cause? Will we test our love by our renewed dedication to the church of Jesus Christ? Or will it be, (ho hum), another boring period that involves

# HIS FAITH

GENESIS 22:8, "ABRAHAM SAID, 'GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING, MY SON.'"

PIC. RE IN YOUR MINDS IF U WILL SETTING OF OUR SCRIPTURE. ABRAHAM SPOKE TO BY GOD & HE RESPONDS BY DOING AS TOLD RESPONDED TO LAST DETAIL & EVEN TO THE SLAYING OF SON, BUT GOD INTERVENED THIS STORY TEACHES MANY LESSONS CAN BE COMPARED TO LIFE OF JS. 1ST LET US LOOK AT STORY MUCH CLOSER.

DURING ABE'S TIME SACRIFICE OF CHILDREN COMMON THING HUMAN SACRIFICES PERFORMED AT WHAT THOT DIVINE COMMAND IF MAN THOT THIS TODAY & THOTS BECAME KNOWN, HE BE INSTITUTION WORSE YET, IF HE PERFORMED ACT, ARRESTED FOR MURDER THIS STORY CAN BE RATHER DISTURBING TO ANYONE READING IT, & REQUIRES WE LOOK AT IT CLOSELY

HUMAN SACRIFICE AMONG CANNANITE TRIBES WAS A CUSTOM TIME OF ELISHA ABOUT 800 BC, DURING CRISIS IN BATTLE FOR MOABITE CAPITAL, WE READ II KINGS 3:27, KING OF MOAB, TOOK HIS ELDEST SON WHO WAS TO SUCCEED HIM & OFFERED HIM AS A SACRIFICE ON THE CITY WALL.

THIS SACRIFICE MADE TO PAGAN GOD IF MEN WORSHIPING PAGAN DEITIES COULD CARRY THEIR RELIG TO THAT EXTREME, HOW COULD ABRAHAM DO ANY LESS THE ONLY WAY WAS TO DO AS OTHERS DID

SHOWING ALL AROUND HIM WERE OBEDIENT PEOP ~~XXXXXX~~ THEIR FAITH TO THE Pagan GODS

DEL. THE TORMENT & HIS LOVE FOR HIS SON HE KEPT HEARING THAT INNER VOICE TELLING HIM TO SACRIFICE SON COULD VERY WELL BE THAT MIND ~~WEX~~ DWELLING ON THESE THOTS, THE THOT PRESSED UPON CONSCIENCE & HE INTERPRETED AS VOICE OF GOD

WHATEVER CASE MAY BE, CLIMAX OF STORY IS REAL REVEL OF GOD VOICE OF GOD PROVES TO SAY SOMETHING QUITE DIFF FROM WHAT ABRAHAM THOT HE WAS SAYING

THE CLIMAX IS THAT GOD DID NOT WANT ISAAC SAC.

STORY ENDS ON NOTE OF HAPPINESS & NOT TRAGEDY GOD SHOWED ABRAHAM TRUE TEST OF PERSONS LOVE IS NOT DETERMINED BY WILLINGNESS TO SAC., BUT BY FAITH

I HAS NOT WILL OF GOD THAT ISAAC SHOULD PERISH & GOD NEVER REQUIRES THAT WE SACRIFICE IN THIS WAY. GOD REVEALED HIS TRUE NATURE WHEN HE STOPPED AB FROM DOING IT

## ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Lenten Service MARCH 6, 1974  
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, SHARI MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

WED. - 7:00 -

PRELUDE: "THE HOUR OF DEVOTION" RATHBURN  
SILENT MEDITATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 60 "SAVIOUR, BREATHE AN EVENING BLESSING"

\*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: GENESIS 22: 1-19

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE  
OFFERING

OFFERTORY "LENTEN MEDITATION" STAIRS

HYMN No. 475 "SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER"

SERMON "HIS FAITH"

SERMON PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 221 "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" RAND

\*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE SERVICE THIS EVENING WAS SET AT 7:00 BECAUSE OF COUNCIL MEETING. NEXT WEEK THE SERVICE WILL BE AT 30 P.M.



WE ARE HESITANT TO TURN THINGS OVER TO GOD,  
MAYBE HE WILL NOT SOLVE THEM AS ~~WELL~~ WELL AS WE CAN

THIS IS PART OF WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO SAY TO US TODAY  
BUT GOD IS ALSO TELLING US AS HE DID IN ABE & JS TIME,  
DOES NOT WANT OUR SACRIFICES AS MUCH AS HE WANTS OUR LOVE  
SEVERAL OF THE PROPHETS PREACHED AGAINST SACRIFICES  
HOLY FOR ONE WROTE, "FOR I DESIRED MERCY & NOT SACRIFICES;  
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD MORE THAN BURNT OFFERINGS."  
WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS FROM US IS OUR COMPLETE LOVE TO HIM

WE CAN BRING ALL OF THE OFFERINGS TO GOD, & WE SHOULD,  
BUT IF WE DO BRING OURSELVES AS WELL, ALL OF OUR OFFERINGS  
ARE USELESS & MEANINGLESS.

THE SAC JS MADE IS THE SAC GOD GAVE TO US  
IF WE ACCEPT JS WE NOT ONLY INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED TO  
US, BUT WE SHOW LOVE TO GOD BY ACCEPTING HIS GIFT WHICH WAS  
SO FREELY GIVEN

OUR FAITH SHOULD BE THE SUSTAINING FORCE IN OUR LIVES  
IF OUR FAITH IS AS IT SHOULD BE, THEN WE CAN SING FROM  
THE VERY DEPTHS OF OUR SOULS,

"MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE, THOU LAMB OF CALVARY,  
SAVIOR DIVINE: NOW HEAR ME WHILE I PRAY, TAKE ALL  
MY GUILT AWAY, O LET ME FROM THIS DAY BE WHOLLY THINE."

AB WAS BLESSED BECAUSE WILLINGNESS OBEY GOD WILL WHICH  
HE BELIEVED MEANT SAC SON  
BLESSED BECAUSE WILLINGNESS TO GO TO LIMIT TO SHOW HIS LOVE  
THIS SORT SPIRIT ALWAYS MAKES MAN CAPABLE OF GREATNESS  
BUT COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO WHAT HE BELIEVED  
WHEN EVERYTHING MAN HAS IS COMMITTED TO WHAT HE BELIEVES  
CAN REACH THE HEIGHTS  
JULD THAT ALL OF US WERE OF THAT MIND,  
BUT UNFORTUNATELY MOST US HOLD BACK  
WE QUESTION "WHAT IF" INSTEAD TRUST GOD COMPLETELY

STORY OF AB & STORY JS VERY SIMILAR  
GREAT DIFFER, ONE ABOUT MAN, HIS SON, HIS GOD  
OTHER ABOUT GOD, HIS SON, & MAN.  
ONE STORY SHOWS FAITH AB, OTHER SHOWS FAITH JS  
EACH TRUSTED GOD TO EXTREME  
EACH HAD COMPLETE FAITH THAT GOD WOULD SEE THEM THRU  
THAT GOD WOULD WORK THINGS OUT AS HE CHOSE  
THAT NO MATTER WHAT, GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED

HAVE STRESSES FAITH OF ABE, BUT WHAT OF FAITH OF JS?  
ONLY EXPLANATION THAT HE LEANED COMPLETELY UPON GOD  
JS QUESTIONED HIS FATE, WHO WOULDN'T?  
BUT WHEN DETERMINED THIS GODS WILL, & NO OTHER CHOICE,  
HE ACCEPTED IT  
THIS FAITH AT ITS STRONGEST, WE CANNOT COMPLETELY COMPREHEND

ANOTHER PARALLEL IS SACRIFICE  
SAC OF ABE TO BE HUMAN, BUT SO WAS SACRIFICE OF GOD  
SAC OF ABE TO BE SON, BUT SO WAS SAC OF GOD

THEN HAVE PARADOX, SAC OF ABE DONE FOR LOVE OF GOD,  
SAC OF GOD DONE FOR LOVE OF MAN  
THAT WHEN WE CONSIDER FAITH OF JS, & COMPARE WITH FAITH OF  
ABE WE SEE MANY SIMILARITIES  
BUT WE MUST ALWAYS ASK, WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY THRU  
THE FAITH OF HIS SON & HIS SACRIFICE?  
1st HE IS SHOWING US PERFECT EXAMPLE OF FAITH & TRUST IN STORY  
OF JS

IF WE COULD POSSESS THIS COMPLETE UNQUESTIONING LOVE & FAITH  
IN FATHER, CAN U IMAGINE WHAT CHURCH WOULD BE LIKE?  
ALL PROBLEMS & DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE SOLVED  
BUT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH  
ALL PROBLEMS ARE MAN MADE & MAN CAUSED BY OUR NARROW MINDED  
HUMAN WAY OF HANDLING THINGS  
THE REAL PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY WE PEOP WHO MAKE UP THE CHURCH  
MANY TIMES OUR FAITH IS SO SHALLOW & WE DON'T HAVE THE COM-  
plete TRUST IN GOD AS WE SHOULD

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 10, 1974  
MR. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, SHARI, MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

- PRELUDE: "LARGHETTI QUOSI ANDANTINO" RAFF  
SILENT PRAYER  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 65 "THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD"  
\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
\*EXHORTATION  
\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO ART RICH IN MERCY  
TOWARD ALL, WE CONFESS BEFORE THEE: ALL OUR DEEP CONCERN  
OVER OUR OWN INTERESTS, AND OUR THOUGHTLESSNESS OF OTHERS;  
OUR NEEDLESS ANXIETIES AND THE FRUITLESS FEARS WITH WHICH  
WE DEFEAT OURSELVES; OUR TIMIDITIES IN THE FACE OF THY  
CALLS TO DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY; OUR LOVE OF OLD ERRORS  
AND OUR DISTRUST OF THE TRUTH WHICH WOULD LEAD US IN NEW  
WAYS; OUR BLIND CONFIDENCE IN FALSE GODS, THE HIGHWAYS  
INTO BETTER THINGS WHICH WE BLOCK FOR OTHERS AND FOR  
OURSELVES BY OUR DESPAIR. PARDON US FOR ALL OUR SINS --  
THOSE WE DO NOT KNOW, AND THOSE WE DARE NOT NAME, AND  
LEAD US INTO THAT NEW LIFE WHICH IS HID WITH CHRIST IN  
THEE. AMEN."  
\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE  
\*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
SCRIPTURE LESSON MALACHI 3: 1-3; MARK 11: 15-19  
HYMN No. 316 "JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL"  
\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)  
\*GLORIA PATRI  
\*CALL TO PRAYER  
\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
PRAYER / PRAYER RESPONSE

- OFFERING  
OFFERTORY "LENTEN MEDITATION" CROKER  
DEDICATION  
ANTHEM: "BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE" SWIFT  
SERMON: "TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!" ACT II. A CHURCH  
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 318 "NEARER, MY GOD TO THEE"  
\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" KERN  
----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MRS. ELLEN BAUER IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES"  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, MONT  
MACKINNEY, STEVE VARGO, JOHN SNOW AND JAMES MALONEY.  
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO  
AND KAREN KENNEDY.  
DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES PENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.  
➤ HOSPITALIZED: MR. FRANK MAXWELL, MRS. DORIS ZAVACKY,  
MRS. BETTY FILSON, RICHARD NICHOLAS, MRS. HULDA  
LIPPOLD, MISS WINIFRED MCGRODY - BCMH; MRS. CAROL  
HALL - #124 ALLEGHENY VALLEY HOSP.  
WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. RODNEY RENSEL ON  
BIRTH OF A SON.  
➤ TONIGHT - 7:30 P.M. - ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF  
OUR PASTOR. ANYONE NEEDING A RIDE CONTACT THE WILLIAM  
PFLUGH'S - TELE. 285-6837. RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN  
THE SOCIAL ROOMS OF THE CHURCH UNDERCROFT.  
➤ THE ALTAR ON THE CHANCEL WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MR. <sup>For</sup>  
CLARENCE SHAKELY BY MISS CLARA SHAKELY, MISS FLORENCE <sup>KIVIN</sup>  
SHAKELY, MRS. BRUCE, COLT, IND., CRUCIBLE INC., AND <sup>CRUCIBLE</sup>  
CRUCIBLE MATERIALS RESEARCH CENTER, PITTS. PENNA. <sup>CHARTER</sup>  
FRIENDS OF MR. SHAKELY'S SON - BRUCE SHAKELY.  
➤ WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE - 7:30 - "HIS LOVE"  
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PROSPECTIVE MEMBER THAT WOULD LIKE  
TO JOIN THE CHURCH - PLEASE PUT THEIR NAME ON A SLIP  
OF PAPER AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR GIVE  
IT TO THE MINISTER.  
➤ THE LILY CHART IS BEING PASSED TODAY IN THE CONGREGA-  
TION TODAY - ORDERS WILL BE PLACED SOON.  
NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED ON PALM SUNDAY - ALSO  
CONFIRMATION CLASS.

249 - JUNE 125 - WED.  
WELCOME VISITORS - N. GL. & DUP.



2/

abuses selling pigeons, doves equally bad  
 Pigeons, doves necessary certain sac  
 birds to be pure & without blemish  
 guarantee this, priests hired inspectors  
 they examined birds before presented priest as offe  
 Birds could be bot outside temp as well C of Gent  
 But birds bot outside rejected unfit for sac.  
 So buyer had purchase them in Temp area  
 The abuse, birds bot outside as good as bot inside  
 but conspiracy tween priest & inspector & sellers  
 birds bot in Temp cost twice much as birds bot out  
 so had to be bot in temp area be acceptable

Thus peop bilked, cheated, in name of relig  
 Js merely seeking correct flagrant abuse  
 but when chose do this, he challeng powers of Jews  
 Temp shops known as booths of Annas & were property  
 of hi priest  
 This probably why Js bot to Annas after arrest  
 Thus Annas able pay back for causing stir about  
 temp monopoly

In Temp incident we see fulfillment of proph of Malach  
 concerning Messiah.  
 Malachi tells us, "Behold I send my messenger to pre-  
 pare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek  
 will suddenly come to his Temple."

This Js did, but besides coming suddenly ~~to~~ the Temp.,  
 he was also responsible for fulfilling a portion of  
 the remaining prophecy which was,  
 "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who  
 can stand when he appears? For he is like a re-  
 finers fire and like fuller's soap; he will sit as  
 a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify  
 the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and  
 silver till they present right offerings to the Lord

Those who felt wrath of Js certainly could not endure  
 the day of his coming.  
 And he was striving to cleanse the Temp. so that  
 right offerings were presented to God.  
 The priests came from the tribe of Levi,  
 So when prophet says he will purify sons of Levi,  
 he is saying that the Messiah will take the priests  
 to task for their evil ways.

Malachi could have referred to 2nd coming of Christ,  
 but his prophecy applied to the Temp as well  
 But Js also concerned with exploitation of pilgrims  
 coming to God

## "Tragedy To Triumph!"

### ACT II. A Church

Text: Malachi 3:1-3  
 Mark 11:15b-17

Act I of lentendrama opens in Temp, we find Js & Dis  
 upon return after nites lodging & rest in Bethany.  
 1st act performed is one of violence & physical force  
 Man who all along saying, "Love enemies, pray those  
 hate you, turn other cheek, do good for evil."  
 All of sudden doing opposite of preach & teach  
 Surely must be reason for actions  
 Or was Js over-reacting to gain attention of crow  
 Was He merely trying assert dubious authority?  
 Was He trying anger authorities?  
 Just what was motive?

Order to answer must understand operation of Temp.  
 Temp area covered top Mt. Zion, about 30 acres in exte  
 Surrounded great walls each side & 1000 to 1300 ft lg  
 Wide outer space Court of Gentiles  
 Into this court Jew or Gentile could come  
 At inner edge this court, tablets placed in wall  
 Said if Gent passed that point it meant death

Next court, Court of Women  
 Unless woman had actually come to sac. could go no  
 Next, Court of Israelites further  
 It here congregation gathered great occasions  
 Also was from it that worshipers handed their  
 offerings to the priests  
 Inmost court, Court of Priests  
 Was in Court of Priests that Temp itself stood

In Court of Gentiles was where incident involving Js  
 took place.  
 Thru yrs court become commercialized  
 Meant as place prayer & prep but instead become  
 hq selling birds animals, exchange money  
 All this legal proper, but became means priests  
 exploit peop make money

Each male Jew had pay Temp tax  $\frac{1}{2}$  shekel yr  
 payable only shekel of sanctuary  
 many Jews came other countries to feast  
 they had foreign money needed be exchanged  
 they charged for this, but abuse of more charge  
 than necessary  
 coin exchangers same as loan sharks our day.

If we do we are acting like a private country club. 4/

This is what Js lashing out against.

Can we who bear his name do any less?

U. I are this cong.

We reflect it as tho we were a mirror

What do people see?

Do they see Js reflected in your face & mine?

Do they see him reflected in your life & mine?

Do they see him reflected in all of us collectively on a Sunday morning?

"Behold I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?"

Js came to the Temple & the priests & the people were unable to endure his coming, & were unable to stand when he appeared.

How would the ministers & the peop in the church today fare if he were to come, to the church in the same way?

He not only felt compassion, but wanted them to worship in freedom & tranquillity 3/

This not possible with sellers hawking wares

& with hustle & bustle of business in Court

He concerned as Mark tells us,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." - ~~Quote from Jer 7:11~~ Isa 56:7.

Mark is the only one who records this phrase & one wonders why.

But when we consider that the Court of the Gents was open to all outsiders, which meant all nationalities and peop from all nations,

then we understand why it written outsiders

This disturbed Js, since this only court open to

But all of this activity made it impossible ~~for a Gent. to worship God~~

Js let be known in minis that he concerned all peop & not just Jews

So why wouldn't he be angry if group discriminated against him? He angry cause peop came encounter God

instead, encounter animals, birds, merchants using all kinds gimmicks separate peop from money.

Js perhaps saw Temp used in exclusive way, & those not Jews being pushed aside

This danger in any church

If we members do not exercise Xpian love & Xpian discipline in church it can become exclusive club.

Illustration of St. John's U.C.C. in Wheeling & Vance Memorial Presbyterian

Laymen in service at Thanksgiving, Dale & I went cold, no welcome from 100 there.

Vance welcomed at door, taken to meet minister, this church of 1000 or more,

found home in that church, felt like lifetime member.

Hated to leave it.

It isn't the building, it isn't the size of cong. It isn't the service, it isn't the liturgy.

It is THE PEOPLE and their attitudes that make or break a cong.

We must always examine our attitudes towards others

Are we warm, friendly? Do we greet strangers?

Do we make an effort to make people feel at home?

Do we get in our little groups before or following the service & not include anyone who may be standing on the outer fringes of our group?



## "Tragedy To Triumph"

### Act II - The Temple

Text: Malachi 3:1-3, "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver till they present right offerings to the Lord."

Mark 11:15b -17, "And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons; and he would not allow any one to carry anything through the temple. And he taught and said to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?' But you have made it a den of robbers."

Act II of our Lenten drama opens in the temple where we find Jesus and His disciples upon their return, after a nights lodging and rest in Bethany. The first act He performs is one of physical force and violence. The man who all along has been saying, "Love your enemies, pray for those who hate you," ~~and~~ "If someone smacks you on the one cheek, turn the other one also," and here he is all of a sudden doing just the opposite of his teaching and preaching. Surely He must have a reason for His actions, or was He over-reacting to gain the attention of the assembled crowds? Was He merely trying to assert whatever dubious authority He possessed? Was He trying to anger the authorities? Just what was His motive? In order to answer these questions we must first understand something of the operation of the temple.

We are told that the temple area covered the top of Mount Zion and was about thirty acres in extent. It was surrounded by great walls which varied on each side and were 1000 to 1300 feet in length. There was a wide outer space that was called the Court of the Gentiles. Into this court anyone could come, Jew or Gentile. At the inner edge of

the Court of the Gentiles there was a low wall with tablets set into it which said that if a Gentile passed that point the penalty was death. The next court was the Court of the Women. Unless a woman had actually come to sacrifice she could not proceed farther. Next was the Court of the Israelites and in it the congregation gathered on great ~~many~~ occasions, and it was from it that the offerings were handed by the worshipers to the priests. The inmost court was the Court of the Priests, and it was in the court of the Priests that the temple itself stood.

In the Court of the Gentiles was where this incident involving Jesus took place. Through the years this court had become very commercialized. It had been meant as a place for prayer and preparation but had become instead the headquarters for the selling of birds and animals and the exchanging of money. Now all of these enterprises were legal and proper, but what had happened was that this became a means for the priests to exploit the people and make a lot of money.

~~The Jews each had~~ Every male Jew had to pay the temple tax of one half shekel a year. This was only payable in shekels of the sanctuary, and since many of the Jews came from other countries to the Feast, they had foreign money which had to be changed into shekels of the sanctuary. They were charged for this coin exchange, but the abuse was that they were charged much, much more than was necessary. The coin exchangers were doing the same thing that the loan sharks do in our country.

The abuses concerning the sellers of pigeons or doves was equally bad. Pigeons or doves were necessary for certain sacrifices, and the birds had to be pure and without blemish. In order to guarantee this the priests had hired inspectors of the birds, who examined them before they were presented to the priest for ~~an~~ an offering. Birds could be bought outside the temple as well as in the Court of the Gentiles. But birds ~~outside the~~ purchased outside the temple were rejected as being



unfit for sacrifice and so the buyer had to purchase them in the temple area. The abuse here was that birds bought outside were just as good, <sup>THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY BETWEEN</sup> but ~~between~~ the sellers in the temple ~~and~~ the priests and the inspectors, ~~THESE WERE~~ ~~celebrated~~ Birds, bought in the temple would cost twice as much as those bought outside and in order for a bird to be acceptable to the inspector it had to be purchased in the temple.

Thus we can see that people were being cheated and bilked, and all in the name of religion. So Jesus was merely seeking to correct a flagrant abuse. But when He chose to do this He was challenging the powers of the Jews for these temple shops were known as the booths of Annas and were the ~~prop~~erty of the family of the high priest. That is probably why Jesus after his arrest was first brought to Annas, for Annas could help pay Him back for causing such ~~a~~ stir about his temple monopoly.

We see in this incident several things. First we can see the fulfillment of a prophecy made by the prophet Malachi concerning the Messiah. Malachi tells us, "Behold I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple." This Jesus did, but besides coming suddenly to the temple he was also responsible for fulfilling a portion of the remaining prophecy which was, "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver till they present right offerings to the Lord."

Those who felt Jesus' wrath certainly could not endure the day of his coming. And he was striving to cleanse the temple so that right offerings would be presented to God. The sons of Levi were the priests and Jesus was lashing out at them in this incident. Malachi could very well have been prophesying what we refer to as the Second Coming of Christ, the wording and phraseology would indicate this, but

his prophecy certainly applied very well to this situation in the temple.

We can also see in this incident that Jesus was concerned with the exploitation of pilgrims coming to worship God. He not only felt compassion for them, but wanted to make it possible for them to worship in freedom and tranquility. But this was not possible for them with the sellers hawking their wares and the hustle and bustle of business taking place in this court. He was concerned as Mark tells us, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." We only find that last part recorded in Mark, "A house of prayer for all nations." Why would Mark put that in?

The only answer possible is that the trading and the selling took place in the Court of the Gentiles, and this disturbed Jesus, since this was the only court of the temple that was open to outsiders. In other words only Non-Jews were supposed to be permitted here <sup>For worship on sabbath</sup> and all of this activity made it impossible for any Gentile to worship God if he wanted to. Jesus let it be known in His ministry that He was concerned with all people and not just the Jews. So why wouldn't He be angry when one group of people was being discriminated against in worship? He was angry because people came there to encounter God and ~~xxxx~~ instead encountered animals and birds being sold, and all sorts of gimmicks to separate people from their money.

Jesus also saw that perhaps the temple was ~~xxxx~~ being used in an exclusive way and those who were not Jews were being pushed aside. This is really the danger in any church. If we as members do not exercise Christian love and Christian discipline in the church it can evolve into an exclusive club.

When we lived in Wheeling, I decided to attend a Thanksgiving service since I had no preaching obligations for that day, and I was also looking for a ~~home~~ church home to attend on the Sundays that I was not preaching. So I took Dale with me and we went to a U.C.C.



church in downtown Wheeling. There were about 100 or more people at the service. A layman took charge of the service and he ~~spoke~~ did a very good job. The service was fine, but the people weren't. Out of all of those in attendance there wasn't one that even said good morning. I checked into a little of their background and I discovered they had been without a pastor for about 2 years and were unable to get one. And I think I know the reason why. I contrast this with the large Presbyterian church I went to a short while later. Here is a church that has a membership of between 1000 and 2000, and the very first time I stepped into that church I was made welcome. A man greeted me at the door and wanted to know all about me. After the service he personally came to me and took me to meet the minister and introduced me.

We found a home in that church and when we came here it was like leaving a church that we had attended all our lives. But you see it isn't the building, or the size of it. It isn't the service or ~~any~~ the liturgy. It is the people and their attitude that makes or breaks a congregation. We must always examine our attitudes towards other people. Are we warm and friendly? Or are we cold and indifferent? Do we greet strangers? Or do we let them find their own pew to sit in and ignore them? Do we make an effort to speak to those who come into our church for the first time or do we figure that is the preachers job? Do we get together before or after the service in our own little cliques and ignore someone standing on the outer fringe of it? When was the last time we made an honest effort to shake hands with someone who was visiting, even though that person was on the other side of the church and it meant we had to go out of our way to do it?

These are all questions we must ask ourselves and if we find we have not been acting in a friendly manner then we need to change. If we find that we are too private clubbish, then we need to make an honest effort to include others in our private club. This is what Jesus.

was lashing out at. Can we who carry His name do any less? You and I are this congregation. We reflect it as though we were a mirror. What do people see? Do they Christ reflected in your face and mine? Do they see Him reflected in your life and mine? Do they see Him reflected in all of <sup>us</sup> collectively on a Sunday morning?

"Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple," ~~2 speaks the prophet~~  
"But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?"



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WENTEN SERVICE MARCH 13, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, SHARI MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

PRELUDE MUSIC: WED. EVE. - 7:30 P.M.  
"EVENING PRELUDE" CLARKE  
"MEDITATION" NOLTE

SILENT MEDITATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 466 "HE LEADETH ME"

\*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 15: 1-17

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ANDANTE, LEU, SOSTENUTO" NICODE

HYMN No. 469 "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

SERMON: "HIS LOVE"

SERMON PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 55 "SUN OF MY SOUL, THOU SAVIOUR DEAR"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "GRANT US THY PEACE" GOUNOD

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THURSDAY - MARCH 14 - 7:05 - BROADCAST OF COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES - BASKETBALL (SENIORS) - 97.7 ON THE

IAL - WBUT-FM - CHUCK McWILLIAMS WILL BE HOST FOR  
THE EVENING. turn dial to WISH AM, then switch to FM

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SOFTBALL PLAYERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO PLAY SOFTBALL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EASTER LILY FOR THE  
CANCEL ON EASTER CALL BEA TAIT. FOR FOUR (4) BLOOM  
LILIES IT WOULD COST \$4.00.

*FOR LOCAL*

*WELCOME GUESTS*

*UNABLE SPEAK ABOUT ORATION*

*"RIP. COMM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS" 2ND FL. APT.*

*19TH 6:30 - CONTACT BOB KNAVE OR  
DON KENEDY*

KITCHENS  
SLATE FOYERS

BATHROOMS  
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RALPH C. LINK

Lenten Music  
The Greater Love

Text: John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Dr. George Matheson once said of a hymn he wrote, "I composed it at the manse in Innellan on the evening of June 6, 1882. I was alone at the time. It was the day of my sisters marriage and all of the family was at Glasgow. Something had happened to me which was only known to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. This hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

Thus came into being those memorable words;

"O love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer fuller be.

The thing that makes this hymn rather special is the fact that its author Goerge Matheson could write of a love that would not let him go, and yet, ~~the source of this love~~ he had been stricken with blindness at the age of 15. Had he been born blind, one could say that he was capable of accepting this handicap and ~~learning~~ <sup>had</sup> learned to live with it. But here he is telling of a love that is all consuming, a love that will not leave him or let him go, and he speaks of it in the manner of a strong faith. ~~Isn't this~~



Isn't this reminiscent of another person? A person who once said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus accepted this greater love. He knew that his entire life was wrapped up and <sup>also</sup> involved in an all consuming love. A love from which he could not possibly turn, try as he might. A love that would not let him go no matter where he turned or where he went.

A grade school teacher in her arithmetic class asked the following question; If your father sold fifteen hundred bushels of grain for \$2 per bushel, what would he get? One little boy answered, "A new car." ~~He knew his father~~ It's apparent he knew his father. So did Jesus. He realized that through the ordeal of sacrificing his life, his father would take care of him. *HIS FATHER'S LOVE WOULD NOT LET HIM GO.*

The ~~next~~ two verses of this hymn continue along the same theme of faith in the father.

"O light that ~~seekest~~ followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshines blaze its day  
May brighter fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall ~~tearless~~ tearless be.

There are many examples of rather famous men and women who have overcome handicaps in life and have kept a strong and true faith in their father which we could cite. However to do this many times implies that all we need do is look at their example and we too can solve our problems. This is one ~~thing that is~~ thought that is ~~is~~



involved in great controversy today. The familiar American theme of life has been the Horatio Alger success story for a long time. I think we are familiar with the pattern of it. A certain poor boy or girl through <sup>HARD</sup> work and application reaches the pinnacle of success. This is the pattern we must follow, that is working and applying ourselves to the best of our ability, but to say that we will end up as number one in the state or the country or world is erroneous. To set before us examples of famous men and women and imply that if we follow their pattern exactly ~~we~~ everything will turn out right is misleading. However, we must realize that we are each one a unique individual. This does not mean to imply that we cannot use some of the guidelines of the lives of others to improve our lives. As individuals we control a goodly portion of our future. We can make life miserable if we so desire, & We can make life happier if we so desire. *IT IS UP TO US*

I do not think we need go into much detail about this. I am sure we all know how we could make our individual lives worse or better. But one thing we need to know and that is, that our father is with us, and that our faith in him should and must grow each day if we are to strive for a better life. Christianity is full of many paradoxes. Jesus pointed many of them out. He said if we would have life, we must first lose it. How can we lose our life and still have it? *HE SAID* <sup>HE SAID</sup> If we have someone who hates us we must love him. How can we overcome hate with love? *HE SAID* <sup>HE SAID</sup> If we would be first, we must be last, if we want to follow him we must give ourselves up to do so. All of these and many more are strange to our thinking and in fact the exact opposite of true life as we know it. But all of these paradoxes have real purpose and real meaning if we seek to be a follower of Christ.

Losing our life for him in order to have life means that this life has joy in sorrow, peace in time of conflict, and many other strange unexplainable paradoxes as well. This is only possible because

God is there with us, in all things. This then is the true meaning of the word Emmanuel, "God with us."

Mr. Mattheson knew this and found it in his life. Jesus knew this and found it in his life. Many other people have found this as well, and so should we.

(Illustration of astronomer) and God) *HAN GREAT IS OUR GOD? DOES HE CARE?*

Yes, God does care. He cared enough that he sent his Son into the world, that though him the world might be saved.

O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust lifes glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

I have used this hymn at several funerals, because I think it speaks of what our Christian life and belief should be, and in particular the last verse. But more importantly it also imparts a strength that is needed as well as joy in a time of sorrow.

The writing of this hymn involved inspiration throughout its composition. I mentioned that Mr. Matheson wrote the words in a matter of about five minutes. Dr. Albert Peace who wrote the tune for it tells that there was no suitable music to set the hymn to. So he was requested to write a tune. He wrote that he took the hymn and read it over very carefully and after this, quote, "I wrote the music straight off, and may say that the ink of the first note was hardly dry when I had finished the tune." Not only was the author inspired but the writer of the music. ~~And certainly must have been speaking to someone~~  
(Illustration of lost boy and who found whom?)

We have a phrase that is used in relation to religion.  
We say that - "So and so found the Lord." *BUT THIS ISNT EXACTLY CORRECT*  
~~But~~ The Lord has never been

lost. Who has been seeking whom we must ask? God has sought man  
 and it is man who has been lost. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ God  
 has sought us and is still seeking. ~~Jesus said~~ "The Son of man is  
 come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10, Jesus said.  
 "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his  
 friends." ~~For this~~ Jesus laid down his life and because of Him we  
 can also add, "And from the ground there blossoms red, (not death)but),  
life that shall endless be."

THREE EIGHTS  
 EVANGELISTS

THREE EIGHTS  
 EVANGELISTS

THREE EIGHTS  
 EVANGELISTS  
 B. O. NO. 1  
 EVANGELISTS  
 B. O. NO. 1  
 EVANGELISTS  
 B. O. NO. 1  
 EVANGELISTS



"His Love!"

Text: John 15:13,

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

When we look at the directions that the life of Jesus took, we become very much aware that one of the directions was in the realm of love. We need only look at his life and we can discover this in very short order.

The rich young man came to Jesus and asked what he had to do to inherit eternal life. And Jesus told him, and we read, in Mark 10:21, "Jesus looking upon him loved him." The Apostle John wrote more about the love of Jesus than any other writer. We read how he wrote that Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, how Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus and the Jews remarked, "See, how he loved him." He wrote of Jesus saying, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." And again, "For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me."

In his Epistles, this same Apostle wrote over and over again of the love of Jesus. So it is evident that Jesus whole life and existence is built on love. He spoke of it many times. He said, love your enemies. Love those who despitefully use you. Do good to those who hate you and so on.

Dr. George Matheson once said of a certain hymn that he wrote, "I composed it at the manse in Innellen Scotland on the evening of June 6, 1882. I was alone at the time, It was the day of my sister's wedding and all of the family was at Glasgow. Something had happened to me which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. This hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

Thus came into being those memorable words that all of us have sung so often.,

love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer fuller be."

George Matheson the author could speak of ~~xi~~ a love that would not let him go, and yet he had been stricken with blindness at the age of 15. He had been rejected by his fiancée, and some people believe this was the burden on his heart that he spoke of in reference to this hymn. But he writes in the hymn of a love that is all consuming, a love that will not leave him, nor let him go. Isn't this reminiscent of another person? The person of Jesus Christ. The one who spoke in our ~~scripture~~ tonight and said, Greater Love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He knew that his life was wrapped up in love.

A grade school teacher asked her class in math the question; "if your father sold 1500 bushels of wheat for \$2.00 per bushel, what would he get?" One little boy answered, "A new car."

It's apparent that this boy knew his father. So did Jesus. He knew that no matter what, His Father was there with this all consuming love, that He could go forth and give his very life in love, because in return he would have the love of His Father, that would never let him go.

The Christian life that Jesus has left us to live, is filled with many strange paradoxes. He gave them to us and he expects us to follow them. He said for instance, if someone hates us we must love him. How do you possibly love someone who shows hatred? He tells us, if we would be first we must be last. How can anyone possibly be first if he is last? He said, if we would have life, we must first lose it. How could we possibly live, ~~and~~ if we must lose our lives? All of these are strange things, and are the exact opposite of true life as we know it. But all of these paradoxes are real, and have a real meaning if we seek to be a follower of Jesus.

Losing our life for Him in order to have life, means that ~~we~~ this  
life for a Christian can have joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the midst of  
conflict, life in the midst of death, and many other unexplainable paradoxes  
as well. But all of this is only possible because God is there with us in all  
THINGS & IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.



It is only when we truly know this Son of God to the fullest, that we can completely understand what he was saying and doing in the sacrifice of Himself on the cross.

(Illustration of civil war substitute, or seaman substitute)

HE TOOK MY PLACE. HOW WONDERFUL  
We can see in this incident that the individual who gave up his life willingly, was doing exactly as Jesus had said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." JESUS DID THIS FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

We could cite many examples of this type of love that has been expressed in the sacrifice of one life for another. But perhaps when we are speaking about some of these incidents, we may feel, and perhaps rightly so, that we may never be involved in that type of thing. We may never be required to sacrifice ourselves for someone else.

But there is in each of us, that spark, that something, that would have us gladly give of ourselves for someone else. This does not mean in just the giving up of this life, but of the outward sharing of ourselves. A GIVING OF LOVE

"A young lady thought she had written some beautiful poems about love, and she desired to have them published. After she had arranged to have an interview with the editor of a publishing house, she sat in his office talking to him. The man asked, "what makes you think you know about love? Let me hear some of your poetry, but first tell me what you think love is." The girl began, "Love is, gazing upon a lily pond at night, when the lilies are in full bloom and the moonlight is shimmering upon the water, and ---" "Stop, stop, stop," cried the editor. "You are wrong, wrong, wrong. I will tell you what love is, Love is getting up out of a warm bed on a cold winter night morning, at two o'clock, to care for your ailing children. That is real love. I am sorry we cannot use your poems."

This is the love Jesus was speaking of and was showing in his sacrifice. A modern song tells us, "~~all you need is love~~ love, love, love, all you need is love." This may be true, but more than love is needed. It is the addition of self to that love that makes it worthwhile. It is the complete giving of self that is needed. Not necessarily the giving up of life, but the complete surrender of self in love and then if necessary to give up life because of love. This is what Jesus was saying and was showing in His love. This is what he wants from us, that when we see someone in need, we reach out in love, with no thought of reward. This then is all that Jesus said in our text "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends but it is all wrapped up more simply in the words of the Apostle John, when he writes, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son." This is and was "His Love," his love for you and me and the world.



Discip of obed gotten waylaid in world today 2/  
We talk lack of obed to laws, to governments,  
most especially to laws of God

More those tell us "Must do all things, experience  
all things in order know what good & bad for us."  
This all wrong.

No need kill, know not right  
No need steal, know not take others property.  
no need get venereal disease, know to be moral

God gave certain laws we must abide by be obed to  
these 10 command

in order to keep, do not need break  
must discip selves to keep  
this Js did

from very earliest we know he did

from life Js lived, examp for us of Xpian obed  
it Xpian cause it speaial discip.

it require more love, more understand, any other  
we prove by compare other discips

What law of animals?

Survival fittest, right?

other words, look out self, forget others

But with Xpian disip & obed, look out others, care  
those need care, help helpless etc.

No send off die like eskimo

we love as self, or supposed to.

What law of savages?

kill or be kill, right?

Xpian obed & discip, love enemies, do good those  
hate.

all this Js say over & over

but do not mean be mummy pambies afraid shadow  
this mean try solve problems peacefully,  
no can do, use other means

Js showed both sides.

life of love, force in the temp

Js always be yardstick for us

He examps not obsolete some try have believe

they done in his period, but apply 20C as well

If each person practice obed of Js, Xpianity grow  
leaps, bounds.

Simply cause we be examp of Xpian obed.

Story late ~~Ghandi~~ Mahatma Ghandi India)

wanted talk British church officials, no time,  
brushed off.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP March 14, 1971

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 157  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst give thy life  
for us that we might receive pardon and peace,  
mercifully cleanse us from all sin, and ever-  
more keep us in thy favor and love, who livest  
and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end. Amen.  
\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture---Hebrews 5:1-10  
\*The Gloria Patri  
Anthem (Trinity)  
Pastoral Prayer  
Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
The Hymn of Meditation 144  
The Sermon---Lenten Reflections  
"Obedience of Christ"  
The Sermon Prayer  
\*The Hymn of Response 462  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The special offering for One Great Hour of  
Sharing will be taken next Sunday March 21st  
in both Churches. Special envelopes are in  
the envelope sets for Christ Church members  
and special envelopes are on the table in the  
rear of Trinity Church. Won't you consider  
making some sacrifice this Lenten Season for  
those in need?

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Win-A-Chum Class will conduct worship services  
this afternoon at 2:00 P.M. at the Kinkora Home.

The Women's Guild will meet on Tues. March 16th  
at 7:30 P.M. here at the Church. This will be  
the Lenten Quiet Hour Meeting.

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Community Lenten services will be  
held Wed. evening March 17th at 7:30 P.M. at  
St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church. Your  
pastor will be the speaker.

At the regular Consistory Meeting the following  
officers were elected to serve for one year:  
Vice Moderator: Joe Darlington, Sr.  
Recording Secretary: Helen Lyons  
Treasurer: Roy Snyder  
Financial Secretary: Lee Boggs  
Ralph Bailer was chosen to fill the unexpired  
term of Stanley Hair.



saw so called Xpian treatment his people.  
Made remark, wanted become Xpian, but Xpians saw  
heard in action not Xpians they talk about.  
He lost to Xpian world, many millions with him

3/

work of missionaries became more difficult,  
cause Xpians talkers & not doers

We are to obey, as Paul tells us, "That you may  
be blameless and innocent, children of God without  
blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse  
generation among whom you shine as lights of the  
world."

Contrast this with many a modern day Xpian.  
sing of love on Sunday, show hatred other days.  
talk of obed & obey only selfish desires motives  
rest week.  
pray for peace & fight with neighbors

So see, must not be obed will of Father,  
but must start toward obed by discip selves do God's  
will.

Not just now, this season, but all of life.

Hymn speaks of, "Teach me O Lord thy holy way, and  
give me an obedient mind."

Hymns like this should be not only songs we sing,  
but prayers on lips, thots in minds  
that make aware God's will for us

Next time tempted tell someone off,  
pay back for what done us,  
ask question, "Whatv Jesus do in this case?"

W parents expect obed of children,  
but what of our personal obed in our lives?  
Perhaps each strive be more obed to God,  
we see change in families, personal lives,  
& in many other areas of life.

This another lesson Js taught with his life.  
Let us seek follow all his footsteps & not just  
pick out the ones that are easiest follow.

"He became obedient unto death, even death on a  
cross,"

This is obed we cannot match,  
but it obed that should strive emulate.

## The Obedience of Jesus

Text: Acts. 5:29

For the past few Sundays we have been talking about the qualities which Jesus possessed. We said that He possessed faith, that He possessed love, and that He possessed courage. Today we are going to talk about His obedience. This was one of the greatest qualities that Jesus had. In the Bible concordance by Alexander Cruden, the word obedience is defined as, <sup>QUOTE</sup> "the word obedience is most often used in the Bible in the sense of subjection to the will of God, and to His commands. It is used in speaking of Jesus who always did the will of God." <sup>UNQUOTE</sup> Jesus was the perfect example of obedience. Paul states that "Jesus was obedient unto death even death on a cross."

We first learn of the obedience of Jesus in the story that is told of the annual visit of His family to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When they were returning home they discovered that He was not with the caravan. Going back to Jerusalem they found Him in the Temple mingling with the learned men. His reply was that He had to be about His Father's business. He didn't show any signs of having missed His parents, nor did He show any signs of having been homesick. In fact His reaction was not the normal reaction of a 12 year old boy. But we must consider that this was not a normal 12 year old boy. This was the growing Son of God. The Messiah. But here He showed His obedience to God by wanting to learn of Him and to be in God's Temple with those who were learned in the law and religion.

Then we read of the obedience of Jesus in the temptation in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry. He spent this time meditating upon His mission and trying to wrestle with and overcome the temptations that would arise during His ministry. He knew that pride would come into His life. He also knew that the temptation to use the power at His command for His own selfish desires would come to Him also. These are the temptations that face all men. Pride in the accomplishment of a good job well done, pride in ourselves or in those of our families. The evil of power is a very powerful thing as we can



witness by the use that some leaders have made of it with certain nations of the world. We can also witness it in parts of our state where elected officials have sought to use their power for their own good. These were the evils Jesus was striving to fight. Here He showed His obedience to God by proving that He wanted to serve Him by living as close and as near to God as He could, and this meant throwing anything and all things <sup>out of His life</sup> that would ~~distract~~ or take away from this devotion. <sup>DETRACT</sup>

The third example of the obedience of Jesus is found in the events leading up to His crucifixion and death. This is the most vivid example and probably by far the best remembered. Here is obedience in the very fullest and truest form. ~~All of~~ The qualities of faith, love and courage were all needed and called upon to go to the limits which this ordeal required. To be able to give up life so freely and willingly requires one other thing that goes hand in hand with obedience and this is discipline. The discipline of control of the emotions, of the body and of the spirit. This could only come from a life that is centered around God. It could only come from a life that is lived in God, where every breath is practically breathed with God. This was the discipline of Jesus.

In our world today we hear many times the mention of the word obedience. Most of it is in reference to civil rights. The word is then civil obedience or disobedience. But the thing that is always borne out by the news which we read is that discipline has somehow gotten waylaid. To place this argument in logical order let us look at an example. Suppose there is a young child here on the chancel and he wants to touch the candles that are burning. The proper thing to do is to tell him that he should not touch them because he will get burned. If he would persist in trying to touch the flame, then a tap in the proper place would show him that when we said something was not to be done, then this was what was meant. This would be learning obedience through discipline. It isn't proper to let him get burned just to teach him obedience. This would not only be harmful it would be cruel and inhuman to the child.

But if he learned that when we said no to something then he would associate the word no for things that were not good for him. Thus he could be spared the pain of burns, and scalding and every other misfortune that could befall him, if he had to experience the misfortune in order to understand what was not good for him. So you see in order to be obedient we must first be disciplined.

God gave man certain rules to live by. We call these the ten commandments. Now in order to keep the ten commandments we don't have to break them do we? Of course not. Probably one good reason is that we would be punished if we broke some of them. But aside from that we know that it would not be doing the will of God. Since we call ourselves Christians and are trying to live the Christian life it is in our best interests to keep the commandments. Therefore we have disciplined ourselves to do so, haven't we?

This is what Jesus did. He disciplined Himself from the very earliest story we have of Him. Therefore we can call this Christian discipline. One reason for putting the name Christian in front of it, is due to the fact that this is a special discipline. This is a discipline that requires more love and understanding than any other discipline. We can prove this by comparing it with the disciplines of life. What is the basic law of animals? Survival of the fittest isn't it? In other words look out for yourself and forget about anyone else. But with Christian discipline it becomes the loving and sharing with those who are weak and ill. It means trying to help those who cannot help themselves. We don't just send them off somewhere by themselves to die as some eskimo tribes do, we care for each other and help each other. We love our neighbor as ourself. Or try to.

Then what is a basic law of the savages? Kill or be killed isn't it? But here again the Christian discipline is one of love. Love your enemies and pray for them. If someone strikes you on one cheek turn the other also. These are words of Jesus. These are words we should live by. Now this is not to say that we are to be little mamby pambies who are afraid of our shadows.



This means that we are to first try and solve our differences with peaceful means and then if this doesn't work ~~th~~<sup>EN</sup> we must use force if this is the only alternative. Jesus showed us both of these examples when He showed love to those who did not love Him, and He showed force to those who desecrated the Temple with their moneymaking. Jesus should always be the yardstick by which we measure our lives. The examples He set are not obsolete as some people would have us think. They were done in the period in which He lived, but we can update any and all of them and apply them in the twentieth century as well.

If each person who is a follower of Jesus would practice the obedience of Jesus, Christianity would grow by leaps and bounds. The story is told of the late great Hindu Mahatma Gandhi in India. At one time he was very interested in Christianity. At this time the British were governing India. Mr. Gandhi wanted to talk to some of the British Church officials and they informed him that they did not have the time to spare him. Then he saw how some of these Christians acted toward the Indian people. Because of these incidents he made the remark that he wanted to be a Christian, but the Christians he saw talked of one thing and did something else. As a result he remained a Hindu and was not only lost to the Christian Church, but the thinking of some very intelligent people is that Christianity lost thousands of Indians because of this. The reason for this is that the Indian people did whatever Gandhi did. Then too the work of the missionaries in India became much more difficult, because the word was out that Christians were only talkers and not doers. This is still <sup>PHIL. 2:15</sup> very true today. Many people come to Church on Sunday morning and sing about love, and on Monday show hatred. Many people talk about obedience and on Monday and the other days of the week obey only their own selfish desires and motives. We pray for peace and we can't even have peace with our next door neighbor. So we see we must not only be obedient to the will of our Father, but we must start toward this obedience by disciplining ourselves to do God's will. Not just today, but the other days of this week and the weeks ahead. One of our

hymns we sing is, teach me O Lord Thy holy way, and give me an obedient mind. The hymns we sing should not be just songs we like to sing or pretty tunes to . They should be prayers upon our lips, and thoughts on our minds that make us aware of God and His will for us. The next time we are tempted to really tell someone off, or pay someone back for what has been done to us, let us stop and ask the question what would Jesus do in this case. We who are parents talk about discipline in reference to our children and other people<sup>CHILDREN.</sup> But we should also be looking at ourselves and trying Christian discipline in our lives and then perhaps we will be much better parents because of it. Let us each try this week to show forth some discipline in our lives and maybe we can make a change in our own little corner of this world. God grant that we may be obedient to Him and His will, and that we may discipline ourselves to this will. Let us pray.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 17, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "O DIVINE REDEEMER" GOUNOD  
"THE GARDEN" DEMOREST

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME"

\*SCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,  
OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE  
AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR  
ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO BEAT DOWN THOSE WHO ARE  
WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT; FOR  
THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR  
HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT  
OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF GREAT  
CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER THAN  
IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR  
SAVIOR. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 13

HYMN No. 160 "IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A LENTEN MEDITATION" OVERHOLT  
ANTHEM: "TIS MIDNIGHT" GOULD - ROLAND THOMPSON -

SAXOPHONE  
SERMON: "A HILL"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S  
SIDE?"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO IN E FLAT" MOORHEAD

\*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MRS. CHARLOTTE CHRISTY IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL  
TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY FENAR, DON KINGSLEY.  
ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET  
COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, RICHARD NICHOLAS,  
MRS. JANE WATTERSON, MRS. DORIS ZAVACKY - *HOME TODAY*  
PAUL RIEMER - *PROBABLE* *THANKS FOR TELL'S*

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR

TONIGHT - 7:30 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - PLEASE BRING  
SCISSORS.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS. - *Silent Auction*

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - LENTEN SERVICE "HIS OBEDIENCE"

WEDNESDAY - 8:30 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - REV. LINK WILL

LEAD THE BIBLE STUDY AT THIS MEETING.

THURS. - 10:30 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING.

THURS. - 7:30 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY - THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEED VOLUNTEERS

TO HELP RE-DO THE SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT AT 110

WALKER AVE. CALL BOB KNAUER OR DON KENNEDY - WE

NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET - 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY.

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST - 6:00 A.M. - YMCA - TICKETS

MAY BE OBTAINED FROM J. W. HARMON OR KENNETH

WEITZEL.

THE EASTER LILY CHART WILL BE PASSED TODAY IN THE

CONGREGATION. IT ONLY WENT DOWN ONE SIDE LAST

SUNDAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LILY AND DO

NOT GET A CHANCE TO SIGN UP - CALL BEA TAIT.

ATTEND. 244 AM. P.M. 2454

VISITORS - WELCOME

"I saw in the night visions, and behold with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the ancient of days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Here we see a prophecy pertaining to the 2nd coming of Js.

Here on hill Js imparting news of coming again

Js been hailed as king

Js gone to temp & asserted authority,

All this has raised quests. in minds of disciples

They quest. how safe & secure they are

Here this calm, serene, peaceful indiv suddenly turned on & acting unlike self.

& now he predicting future events.

Js talking specific time in history when he appear again

We can speculate all want,

We can theorize, or intellectualize all we choose,

but fact remains, much written has come to pass

I believe we in latter days & need get rite with God

If bridegroom comes & we not ready, we left out

(Show pics Ala 71, Jerusalem 72 )

both show Js in clouds

Some laughed, said trick photography,

Still others ridicule, scoff, sneer.

Others see hand of God in our evil, materialistic, selfish age.

More I think of it, the more I convinced God speaking God giving us a chance to change

In 72 we suffered horrible flood. in Hurri. Agnes

Some looked upon as another natural disaster.

Some scoffed, sneered, said have had others like it Look at 36 they say.

But I think God speaking in these ways to tell us to change

Woman took picture of clouds during flood, ((Show pic of Js in clouds)

Is all this coincidence?

Is all trickery to sell bibles, kneelers, prayer book

I don't think so, I think God speaking.

## "Tragedy To Triumph!"

### Act III. A Hill

Text Mark 13:26,

"And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Watch therefore for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning -- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

Act I witnessed triumphal entry, this act of acclamation

Act II cleansing of Temp., this act of demonstration

Today Act III, Js leave Temp & going Mt. Olives,

A Hill.

While on Mt. Js speaks prophetically

Read & hear 1st time, concise, vivid language

things come to pass.

1st answers praise for beauty Temp by telling only matter time Temp utterly destroyed.

Actually took place about 40 yrs after Js, 70 A.D.

Curiosity of Disc. aroused & when reach Mt Ol. they question him.

Especially Pete, Jim, John disturbed,

Ask, "What is going to take place, & when will this be

they want to know

Js. tells, men will come say Christ or Messiah

In Acts 8:9 ~~xxx~~ Simon acclaimed by tricks magic,

"The power of God that is called great."

(right now man named Moon from Korea, acclaimed Xp.

Js makes pred about wars, natural disasters

some said no real purpose for predictions or meaning others say ignore them since Temp destroyed & almost 2 millenia past & still no end

Js tells some other things of the signs of the end but in vs ~~24~~ 24 and 25 he says, (READ THIS)

In Isaiah ironically 13:10 we read,

"For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising and the moon will not shed its light."

Js goes on in vs 26 & 27 (READ THIS)

We also read in Daniel 7:13 & 14,

If look what Js said, then look recent happens, 3/  
see startling parallels  
1st Js say, "The sun will be darkened & the moon will  
not give its light."

When flood taking place, no see moon or sun right?  
Was cloudy for several weeks, was it not?

Then Js say, "And then they will see the Son of man  
coming in clouds with great power and glory."

If look at pics, we see definite form him in clouds.  
To me saying prophecies coming true.

You may choose think hoax, trick photo, or something  
else

But be well assured that if we choose neglect signs  
as gimmicks or tricks,  
& laugh off as one big joke, we may laugh selves out  
of eternity.

Jerus may be long way off & we can say, "Well, that  
was sign for those people."

Ala is also long way off & we can say, "Well, this  
a message for those bigotted peop."

But when same thing in back yard, cannot say applies  
to others & not us.

Js was telling followers,

"~~look~~ fellows, you know I have been telling you  
what is going to happen in the near future. But  
what I want to share with you now, is what is going to  
happen in the far distant future.

"Watch therefore -- for you ~~know~~ do not know when  
the master of the house will come, in the evening,  
or midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning -  
-- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.  
And what I say to you I say to all: Watch!"



"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act III The Mount Of Olives

Text: Mark 13:26, "And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory." "Watch therefore- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning-lest he come suddenly and

In Act I we witnessed the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and this was an act that was full of acclamation. In Act II we witnessed the cleansing of the temple by Jesus and this was an act of demonstration. Today we are looking at Act III in the Lenten drama and we find Jesus and His disciples leaving the temple and going to the Mount of Olives. It is while on this mount that He speaks to his followers in a very strange and unique way. *HE SPEAKS PROPHETICALLY.*

We read and hear for perhaps the first time in very concise and vivid language of the things that will come to pass. First He answers their praise for the beauty of the temple by telling them that it will only be a matter of time and ~~the~~ <sup>THE</sup> temple will be utterly destroyed. This prediction arouses the curiosity of the disciples and so when they have reached the Mount of Olives, they naturally question Him about ~~this~~ <sup>IT</sup>. Peter and James and John and Andrew are especially disturbed by this prophecy and so they ask Him ~~about it~~ <sup>WHY HE MEANT.</sup> "What is going to take place and when will this be, they want to know?"

He tells them that men would come and say that they are the Christ and the Messiah. We read in Acts 8:9 of a man named Simon who performed tricks of magic and how he was acclaimed as being, "The power of God that is called great." But there were others who came along from time to time and each was accepted ~~as~~ by some as the promised one of Israel.

But Jesus makes other predictions about wars, and natural disasters and such. There are those who have said that there is no real purpose and meaning to these predictions. There are those who feel that we should ignore them since the temple has been destroyed and yet ~~several~~ almost two ~~millennia~~ millenia have passed and still the end has not appeared.

find you asleep, and what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

At some time in the near future I intend to deal with the predictions of the end of the world and so I ~~do not intend to~~ <sup>will not</sup> delve into it in its entirety this morning. But what I would particularly call your attention to is the prediction of Jesus that He will come in the clouds and this will be a sign of the end. This is found in verse 26 of this 13th chapter of Mark.

In verse 25 Jesus uses some very picturesque language when He tells them that, "After that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken."

If we look at Isaiah, <sup>also</sup> ironically, the 13th chapter, and the 10th verse we read, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising and the moon will not ~~give~~ shed its light." And in Isaiah 34:4 we read, "All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies shall roll up like a scroll. And all their host shall fall, as leaves from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree." Now whether Jesus was re quoting these predictions is unknown. <sup>it is</sup> ~~It is~~ <sup>AT THE END OF THIS</sup> ~~perhaps~~ true that He was, ~~for if we read on in this~~ chapter of Mark we see where He mentions the fig tree losing its leaves.

But there is one other prophecy taken from Daniel that perhaps was being paraphrased by Jesus. It is from the ~~6th~~ 7th chapter and the 13th and 14th verses. Daniel says, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Now whether Jesus was merely repeating in another way these ancient prophecies, is immaterial. What is really important is what He is saying. Here on this Mount where He is permitted to have this brief

bit of privacy with his faithful followers, He is imparting some knowledge and some consolation. He is explaining to them that He will be leaving them, but that at a future time He will re-appear on this earth. He has ridden through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey and ~~was~~ <sup>HAS BEEN</sup> hailed and acclaimed as a King. Then He went to the temple and asserted an authority that probably raised some questions in the minds of these men. They were perhaps beginning to question how secure and safe they were at this point. Here was this calm serene, peaceful individual suddenly turned on and acting so unlike himself. And now He is predicting future events that are hard to comprehend, let alone imagine.

In this story as in all the others of the Bible we must realize that Jesus was using language and imagery that was familiar to the people to whom He was talking. These men were acquainted with the descriptive and poetic language that told of the moon turning to blood and the sun not shining and the stars falling. If Jesus were walking the earth today and would tell of a prediction such as this, He would very likely couch it in language of our day that we could understand. He would probably talk of a total eclipse of the sun taking place, or of a comet trailing through the heavens, or a large meteor falling from the sky. Or perhaps He would talk of seeing a large mushroom cloud such as is caused by an atomic blast.

But whatever the language, and however it is told, I for one believe that He was talking of a specific time in history when He would appear among us. We can speculate all we want, we can intellectualize all we choose, but the fact remains that very, very much of what was predicted has come to pass. I believe we are living in the latter days and I believe that we all need to get ready to meet our God. I say this not to scare anyone, but that we ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ better look to our lives and know that sometime soon the bridegroom is going to come, and if we are not ready, we are going to be left out of the kingdom.



CALLER THE JESUS PAPER

\* IT IS VERY  
considered fundamental by many. Inside of the paper was printed two pictures. One was taken in Alabama in 1971 and one was taken in Jerusalem early in 1972. Both pictures show clouds in the sky, but outlined in the clouds is the form and likeness of Jesus Christ as we know Him from paintings that we have all seen.

(Show pictures).

This past year we can all remember very vividly the flood that we had in this central area of the state. Some people looked upon it as only another natural disaster. Other people have looked upon it as the hand of God in our evil, materialistic, selfish age. Those who disagree with this theory have laughed and ridiculed this idea. They have pointed to the fact that we have had all kinds of natural disasters in past years. "Why look at the dreadful floods of 1936," everyone says.

I have pondered ~~this~~ the events of this past year, and I must say I have mixed emotions. But the more I think about it, the more I am convinced that God is speaking to us through nature and He is giving us a chance to turn from our evil ways and to be a part of His kingdom. Just a week or so ago I was given a picture that was taken during the flood and it was taken here in Pennsylvania. The picture again is of a formation of clouds, but again, seen in the clouds is the likeness that you and I would say was Jesus Christ.

(Show picture).

Is this all coincidence? Is this all some trickery that has been dreamed up by someone to sell bibles, and kneeling pads, and prayer books? I don't think so, my friends. I believe it is God telling us to shape up or else.

If we look at what Jesus said, and we look at some recent events we can see some startling parallels. First Jesus says, "The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light." When the flood

was taking place, we could not see the sun or the moon, ~~clouds~~ <sup>not?</sup> could we?  
It was cloudy for a goodly portion of several weeks, ~~was it?~~ <sup>not?</sup> Then Jesus  
says, "And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great  
power and glory." If we look at each of the pictures I have here, we can  
definitely see the form of Him in the clouds. To me this is saying that  
the prophecies are coming true. You may choose to think it is a hoax or  
trick photography or something else. And this is your privilege. But be  
well  
assured that if we choose to neglect these signs as gimmicks or tricks, and  
laugh it off as one large joke, we may laugh ourselves out of eternity.

Jesus was telling his followers, "Look fellows, you know  
I have been telling you what is going to happen to me ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the near future.  
But what I want to share with you now is what is going to happen in the  
far distant future." "Watch therefore - for you do not know when the  
master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at  
cockcrow, or in the morning - lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.  
And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

JERUSALEM MAY BE A LONG WAY OFF & SO WE CAN SAY, "WELL, THAT  
WAS A SIGN FOR THOSE PEOPLE." ALABAMA IS ALSO QUITE A  
PIECE FROM HERE, & AGAIN WE COULD SAY THAT THIS WAS A  
MESSAGE FOR THOSE BIGOTTED, PREJUDICED SOUTHERNERS. BUT WHEN WE  
HAVE THE SAME THING TAKING PLACE <sup>RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD</sup> WE CAN'T VERY WELL  
SAY THAT IT APPLIES TO OTHERS & NOT US.

"His Courage!"

Text: Psalm 27:1,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall  
I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of  
whom shall I be afraid?"

Speak qualities Js, come know he possess far more  
could cover.  
Have been dealing more prominent ones, look tonite  
His Courage.

More I read about Js in Gos, mor I convinced he  
avid student bible.

That's bible that day, Torah-law - books Moses,  
Psalms, few others

Doing research this serm, backtracked cross refs  
scripture.

I referred me back Ps 118:22,

"The stone which the builders refused is become th  
the head of the corner."

This vs is & was statent Js about self,  
found Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17

If Js knew scrips so well, & was fulfillment of it,  
then it stands reason we read into much scrip,  
Js either spoken of, or He could do speaking of  
that certain portion of it.

Case in point scrip for tonite  
I visualize Js speaking this Ps  
Good example His Courage.

Let us look closely;

vs 1, Lord sufficient all needs. He inspiration  
all thots, ideas that come me. He redeem  
at end of life. He will save me.

xxx2x No need fear anyone, God with me. Father  
watching. God strength of all life. In  
everything he there. What person indiv must  
I fear? God always there with me.

vs3x 2, when those who would destroy me, came up  
against me God worked things out. (Jesus)  
in synagogue) They could not touch him.  
They ones defeated.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE MARCH 27, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "EVENING PRELUDE" CLARKE

SILENT MEDITATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 467 "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"

\*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 27

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

"PRAYER"

HOPKINS

HYMN No. 481

"DAY IS DYING IN THE WEST"

SERMON:

"HIS COURAGE"

SERMON PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 472

"WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"RECESSIONAL"

SCOTT

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

MR. PAUL RIEMER WENT INTO NORTH HILLS PASSAVANT

HOSPITAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON. ROOM 628 - HOME

IL 3 - TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE - FROM 1 TO 3

10 O'CLOCK. THIS IS THE ONLY TIME IT COULD BE SET UP. JANE

SUNDAY NEGLECTED TELL MRL BUTLER MRS. WATKINSON

WELCOME VISITORS

NEXT WED. CH. AT 7:00 P.M.

WORK NITE THURS.

MRS. FILSHIN  
MRS. EMMA  
HEGENDUTHAM



thing did, being watched reported.  
Knew would probably be exec at feast  
How else borne torment if not rooted, grounded  
God?

This courage u & I should emulate if Xpian  
When tack name Xpian after name, leave open on-  
taughts world.

Takes courage endure tauntes, smears world has  
offer those stand against crowd.

Confirm class boy say, more courage say no etc

Takes courage remain Xpian when those not flourish  
do well, business private lives.

Sometimes wonder as Job if worth it.

(Illustration 13 yr girl)

stay 1st nite alone grandma hospital,  
Said, "I screamed, I hollered, I cried. But here  
I am, I made it thru 1st nite, now able make it  
till come home, 2

This kind courage all need,  
be able scream, holler, cry if necessary withstand  
wiles devil, evils world

Were we adopt words Psalmist,

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall  
I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall  
I be afraid?"

perhaps would all come conclusion God with us all  
ings,

with this assurance of presence God in lives,  
we each have courage live life fullest, & to  
enjoy life, secure in the Lord.

3/  
vs 3, When came as mob, I able overcome thru 2,  
Gpd. Even onslaughts enemies may seem like  
war, God still with me

4, Sought pattern life proper way. Life lived  
mid glories, beauty, Fathers house. Always  
sought school self in His word.

vs 5, Whenever trouble arise, God will shelter with  
wings. He keep from my enemies. Shall pro-  
vide wall off stone, as it were to shield on-  
slaughts

vs 6, When take out execute, will be lifte up over  
them, (hint way he die?) Even this can  
sing mercy of God. Will lift up voice even  
at hour of suffer, give thanks, (ex, sing hymn  
last sup)

vs 7, When I suffer, please God hear me, answer me  
in my hour need, have mercy pon me

vs 8, Have sot u all of life. Have looked for  
countenance in all of life, every circumstance

vs 9, Don't turn away from me God. Face me even  
at my most crucial hour. Let me know you  
still looking after me. Forsake me not even  
darkest hour. (Js quote Ps 22, My God, My  
God etc)

vs 10, Even when nearest dearest desert, u still  
there O God. (Ex, mother, bros, sis think  
mad, come take away)

vs 11, Show me what do, surrounded enemies, they  
out get me. Show me where walk, what do

vs 12, Do not turn me over barbarians, they tell  
lies, they sadistic, cruel in way put per-  
son death. Js ask remove cup.

vs 13, Could not borne strain, had not seen your  
hand my ministry

vs 14, Be patient trust God even as I. Keep strong  
be courageous in all do. He strengthen life  
give what need. Be patient let God work out  
purpose your life.

In all this see Js courage, faces momentous task  
set before him

vs must always be examp for our lives  
think amt courage muster to live last week life  
knew full well each action, each word, each

"His Courage!"

Text: Psalm 27:1,

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid."

When we speak of the qualities of Jesus, we come to know that he possessed far more qualities than we could ever cover. We have been dealing with the more prominent ones, and the quality we shall look at tonight is the quality of courage. "His Courage!"

The more I read about Jesus in the Gospels, the more I am convinced that he was an avid student of the Bible. By the Bible I mean, the Scripture that was available at that time. The Torah, or the law of Moses, the Psalms, and several others.

My reason for stating this is that in doing some research for this message, I backtracked to some cross references of Scripture. One of these referred me to the 118 Psalm, and in particular the 22nd verse.

This verse reads:

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner."

Now in case you do not recognize this verse it is and was a statement that Jesus made about himself in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, & Luke 20:17. If Jesus then knew scripture so well, and was indeed the fulfillment of a very large portion of it, then it stands to reason that we read into much of scripture, that Jesus is either being spoken of, or He could do the speaking of that certain portion.

A good case in point is our scripture for tonight. I can visualize Jesus uttering this Psalm and also use it as a good example of His Courage. Let us look at it rather closely. The 27th Psalm.

The Psalm begins by stating, (Read Psalm verse by verse, sentence by sentence, and explain.)

vs. 1, Lord is sufficient for all needs, He is the inspiration the thoughts and the ideas that come to me. He will redeem me at the end of life, He will save me.

vs. 1 cont.,

I do not need to fear anyone because God is with me, My Father is watching.  
God is my strength in all of my life. In everything He is there. <sup>what person or</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~  
what individual must I fear?  
I need to fear? God is always there with me.

vs. 2,

when those who would have destroyed me came up against me, My Father worked things out. Jesus in the Synagogue. They could not touch me. They were the ones who were defeated.

vs. ~~3~~ 3,

Even when they come at me as a mob, I will be able to overcome them through God. Even when the onslaughts of my enemies seem like a war is raging against me, even in this God is with me.

vs. 4,

I have sought to patternn my life in the propervway. My life has been lived amid the glories and the beauty of the Father's House. I have always sought to school myself in His word.

vs.5,

Whenever trouble arises God will shelter me with his wings, He shall keep me from my enemies. He shall provide a wall, a wall ~~xx~~ of stone as it were to shield me from their onslaughts.

vs. 6,

When they take me out to execute me, I shall be lifted up over them, but even in this can I ~~xxxx~~ sing of the mercy of God. I will lift up me voice in thanks even at the hour of my suffering.

vs. 7,

When I suffer God, please hear me, answer me in my hour of need, have mercy upon me.

vs. 8,

I have sought to find you in all of life. I have looked for your countenance in every circumstance of life

vs. 9,



vs. 9,

Don't turn away from me God. Face me even at my most crucial moments.

Let me know that you still are looking after me.

Forsake me not, even in my darkest hours. Jesus quoted from Psalm 22, when on cross he said, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

vs. 10,

Even when my closest and nearest and dearest desert me, you will still be there O God. An example is when mother, brothers, sisters came to take him away, because they thought he was crazy.

vs. 11,

Show me what to do because I am surrounded by my enemies, and they are out to get me. So show me where to walk and what to do.

vs. 12,

Do not turn me over to these barbarians, because they are telling lies about me and they are sadistic and cruel in the way they put a person to death.

Let this Jesus would be asking if God would remove this cup from Him.

vs. 13,

I could not have borne up under all of the strain of doing your will, if I had not seen the evidence of your Hand in my ministry.

vs. 14,

Be patient and trust in God even as I have done. Keep strong and be courageous in all you do. He will strengthen your life, and give you what you need. Be patient and give God time to work out His purpose in your life.

Now in all of this we can see the courage of Jesus as He faces up to the momentous task that is set before him. Jesus Christ must always be our example in all of life. Think of the amount of courage he had to muster in his life to live through that last week of his life, knowing full well that each action of his, each word that he spoke, each thing he did was being watched and reported, so that he would be executed at the Feast of the Passover. How else could he have borne this torment if his life was not rooted and grounded in His Father?

This is the courage that you and I ~~shall~~ shall try to emulate if we ~~a~~ are truly Christian. When we tack that name Christian after our names, we leave ourselves open to the onslaughts of the world. It takes courage to endure the taunts and the smears that the world has to offer to those who dare to stand against the crowd.

It takes courage to remain a Christian when we see those who are not flourishing and doing well in business and in their private lives. Sometimes we are forced to wonder as Job did, if it is worth it.

(Illustration of girl living with grandmother in 10 room house all by herself, while grandma is in the hospital).

She said, "I screamed, I hollered, I cried. But here I am, I made it through that 1st night and now I know I'll be able to do it until you get home."

This is the kind of courage we all need. To be able to scream and holler and cry if necessary in order to withstand the wiles of the devil, and the evils of this world.

But were we to adopt into each of our lives, the words of the Psalmist, ~~"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"~~

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?", perhaps we would each come to the conclusion that God is with us in all things, and with this assurance of the presence of God in our lives, we will each have the courage to live life to its fullest, and to enjoy this life, secure in the Lord.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 24, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

-----  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE HOLY CITY" ADAMS  
"IN JOSEPH'S GARDEN" RABLY

SILENT PRAYER  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 184 "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"  
\*SCRIPTURE - CHORAL AMEN  
\*EXHORTATION  
\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HAVE MERCY UPON US, O GOD, ACCORD-  
ING TO THY LOVING-KINDNESS; ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE  
OF THY TENDER MERCIES BLOT OUT OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. WASH  
US THOROUGHLY FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND CLEANSE US FROM  
OUR SINS. FOR WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND  
OUR SIN IS EVER BEFORE US. PURGE US AND WE SHALL BE  
CLEAN; WASH US AND WE SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW. CREATE  
IN US CLEAN HEARTS, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN  
US. CAST US NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT THY  
HOLY SPIRIT FROM US. AMEN."  
\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.  
\*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 22: 7-30  
HYMN No. 239 "ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW"  
\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)  
\*GLORIA PATRI  
\*CALL TO PRAYER  
\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE  
OFFERING

OFFERTORY "PANIS ANGELICUS" FRANCK  
ANTHEM: "NOT A WORD" ROSEMARY HADLER - JR. CHOIR  
SERMON: "DINING OUT"  
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 287 "GOD OF GRACE AND GOD  
OF GLORY"  
\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
ORGAN POSTLUDE: "SARABANDE" BACH  
-----  
\*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
DONN E. MILLER IN MEMORY OF HIS "MOTHER" DOROTHY K.  
MILLER'S BIRTHDAY.  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT, ROBBIE  
VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE, STEVE SMITH.  
ELDER AND MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.  
NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN,  
MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG AND ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG.  
HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON, MRS. MAE DUTTER,

> TUESDAY - 6:30 - A WORK NIGHT IS PLANNED FOR THE  
SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT AT 110 WALKER AVE. MEN AND  
WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO HELP RE-DO THE APARTMENT.  
> WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - LENTEN SERVICE - "HIS COURAGE"  
> GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN - YWCA - APR. 12 AT  
7:30 A.M. - TICKETS ARE \$2.00 - RESERVATIONS MAY BE  
MADE BY CALLING THE YWCA ANYTIME, BUT TICKETS HAVE  
TO BE PICKED UP AND PAID FOR BY APRIL 10.  
> GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR MEN - 6:00 A.M. - YMCA -  
TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM J. W. HARMON OR KENNETH  
WEITZEL.  
EASTER LILIES CAN STILL BE ORDERED - CALL BEA TAIT.  
TUESDAY - 10:00 A.M. - BOARD MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP IN THE UNDERCROFT.  
THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ARE IN NEED OF 1 LB. COFFEE  
CANS - YOU MAY LEAVE THEM IN THE KITCHEN.  
THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 243.  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL BE PLAYING THE PIANO  
ALONG WITH THE ORGAN TODAY.  
-----  
GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I  
CANNOT CHANGE, COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN,  
AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

VISITORS - WELCOME  
ONE GREAT HOUR SHARED TODAY  
PRAYER WILL PAUSED AROUND NEXT SUN.



Js asks them, "For which is <sup>the</sup> greater, one who sits/ at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table?"

Q'er words one sits table considered greatest, cause others minister to him, & serve meal.

But Js. say, "I am among you as one who serves." H. saying, "Here I at head table, yet not neath my dig to serve u, or wait upon your tables."

"You those continued my trials; as Father appointed kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that u may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

Telling since had ~~Jesus~~ served on earth, so will have fellowship with him in kingdom.

When look at passage teaching lesson, not merely story, we see much can learn

1st learn we to be servants ~~instead~~ those waited on But isn't contrary rules society today? Isn't part code, move up ladder lowest rung, then next so on.

Supposed start as office boy, end up pres of corp. What happen if expect pres stamp mail, lick envel? Goes against all standards & rules does it not?

But this Js saying look at church standpoint, fellow start ordinary preacher, move up pres, Assoc, Conf pres, pres church Or fellow start SS teach, then deac, then eld, then ruling eld & hold mostbrevered respected person cong, looked up to sought out advice

By too often, that pres, church, ruling elder, thus preach, can lose site fact to serve is to do so even in capacity of pushing broom.

Js not say once gain status, prestige, age, whatever have it made, everyone else works. Wasn't saying once served certain length time in Kingdom sit back let George do it.

He say, once servant always servant. He say, no job church should be considered neath dignity

He say, "Look, I show you by my life, my example. If you seek serve me, means whole commitment of your life. It means commitment of all u have. It means commitment to do the necessary thing whether it be sweeping floors, teaching class, being sought after because you have some wisdom. But it means serving

When all arrange taken place, Js arrive scene 2/ room met in commonly room bilt top house private stairway, room often used Rabbi, students, or intimate followers

Js merely follow custom Rabbi, householder merely loan room another teacher.

We lead, "And they prepared the Passover."

This prep consist not only sac lamb, getting killed temp, roasting over pomegranate fire on spit, but also other ingred.

Unleaveneds bread- remind them bred eaten haste when escape Egypt

Bowl salt water - remind tears had shed Egypt, also water Red Sea passed thru

Bitter herbs- horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce horehound - remind bitterness slavery Egypt

Paste called CHAROSHETH - mixture apples, dates, pomegranates, nuts - remind clay made bricks, thru it sticks cinnamon remind of straw bricks made

4 cups wine during meal - remind 4 promise Ex 6:6-7

I will bring you out from the burdens of the Egypt

I will rid you of their bondage

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.

I will take you for a people and I will be your God

Thus all preps made Js now dine out with his men

Much said, written bout meal, little of fellowship

All familiar paint Last Sup Leonardo De Vinci shows 12 gathered round table Js

Altho pain beautiful, prob misleading

We think all meals as we eat,

we use table chairs

days Js lounged cushions placed floor, round low table which food placed.

Perhpas seen movies showing Romans eating thus, this true pic

10th chap Mark read James John come Js ask permit sit on rt & left Js in kingdom.

Real signif peop seated meal cording rank

Most import in center

next import his rt

next import left, next import rt again etc

Rt signif since ate rt, talked mostly to rt

Also read in Lk dispute who greatest at Last Sup

(wise counsel as always, informed they not look greatest, but realize they all servants & greatest is actually he who serves.

me, & forgetting all of the personal things that 4/  
motivate you to seek your own stature & your own  
power & glory."

But Js also promised reward.

We realize receive pay for work,

"a compensated for what we do

(are payment for being servant,

"If you do this for me, then you may eat and drink  
at my table in my kingdom."

It is the privilege to share fellowship with Js in  
His kingdom.

As always, a payment that is deserved.

Js said, sow sparingly, reap sparingly,

Serve sparingly ~~you~~ goinf eat drink sparingly my K

Upper Room served as place eat Pass,

As locale ~~for~~ institution last sup

Also as another classroom for instruct. faithful

Js taught by word here, but also by example

Next day he showed by giving life as servant of man  
kind.

Old hymn tells us, "I will cling to the old rugged  
cross and exchange it someday for a crown."

The life of service always means a cross.

It means the giving up of self,

It means losing our identity in Christ in order  
partake his kingdom.

Dining out with our Lord, means not only sitting at  
table, but serving table as well.

Those who have served him, will reign with him.

Those who have shared in the bearing of Christ's  
cross, will someday share in the wearing of His  
Crown.

"Tragedy To Triumph"  
Act IV The Upper Room

Text: ~~MARK~~ Luke 22: 27-30a, "For which is greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

"When do we eat?", is a popular phrase around the Link house and I am sure it has a familiar ring to most of us here. It was also a well known saying among the disciples of Jesus. We read of the feeding of the 5000 and the feeding of the 4000 and how the disciples were not only concerned with how the crowds would be fed, but they were concerned ~~about~~ about their own personal hunger.

~~But~~ <sup>ALSO</sup> in Act IV The Upper Room is not only a meal with the disciples, but ~~was~~ a chance for fellowship. Perhaps the disciples looked forward enviously to the times when they could sit and eat privately with Jesus. This would be a pleasure to be guarded zealously since He was almost continuously surrounded by crowds of people seeking His help. We can ~~draw these conclusions~~ almost definitely draw these conclusions ~~because~~ because we read of several instances where the disciples tried to discourage some people who sought Jesus' aid.

On this occasion preceeding the Feast of the Passover, they came to Him and they asked, "Where will we prepare this meal with you?" Surprisingly Jesus answers that they are to go to Jerusalem, and look for a man carrying a water jar on his head. And when they spotted him they were to follow him. ~~At first thought this sounds like~~ At first thought this sounds like a rather absurd direction to be giving someone. "Look for a man carrying a water jar. But this was a rather unique thing, for in those days of pre-women's lib, the women did all of the water jar carrying. So it was a rare sight indeed to see a man carrying a jar of water around on his head. So then we realize that this was a simple task to go into town and to look



for a man carrying a jar of water, and then to follow him ~~where~~ to his destination.

"The teacher says to you Then they were to say to the householder, <sup>^</sup>"Where is the guest room, ~~where~~ where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?" We see in this what amounts to a ~~not~~ pre-arranged plan. Many people were friends of Jesus, but they were secret friends because of the danger that was involved with being a known friend of this revolutionary individual. So rather than risk the consequences of conflicts with the authorities, they merely remained unknown in the background and helped and supported him quietly and very unobtrusively. Such was the case with this man who owned this house. The pre-arrangement was that this man would send his man servant to fetch ~~water~~ water on this given day, and Jesus' disciples were to look for him, probably in a certain part of the city. And ~~not~~ when they followed him and came to tell his masters house, they were to ~~ask~~ the master, "The teacher wants to know, where the guest room is for this Passover?" This was the password that identified them as being sent by Jesus.

When all of this had taken place they made the necessary arrangements for the meal and then Jesus arrived on the scene with the rest of the disciples. The room they met in was what was commonly a room built on top of the house. It had a private stairway going up to it, and these rooms were very often used by a Rabbi and his students, or his very intimate band of followers. So Jesus was merely following the custom of many Rabbi's and the householder was ~~not really risking~~ merely loaning the room out to another Teacher.

And we read, "And they prepared the Passover." This preparation consisted of not only getting the sacrificial lamb, killing it in the temple and roasting it on a spit over a pomegranate fire, but also included other necessary ingredients. There was ~~also~~ unleavened bread which was to remind them of the bread they had eaten in haste when they had escaped from Egypt.

There was a bowl of salt water, to remind them of the tears

they had shed in Egypt, and also of the waters of the Red Sea through which they had passed to safety. There was a collection of bitter herbs of horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce and horehound to remind them of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. There was a paste called CHAROSHETH which was a mixture of apples, dates, pomegranates and nuts which reminded them of the clay of which they made bricks, and through it there were sticks of cinamon to remind them of the straw with which the bricks had been made. And then there were four cups of wine during the meal. These cups were to remind them of the four promises in Exodus 6:6-7,

"I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.  
I will rid you of their bondage.  
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.  
I will take you for a people and I will be your God."

Thus were all the preparations made and Jesus could now dine with his men. Much has been said about the meal and the significance of it but little has been said about its fellowship. We all are familiar I am sure with the beautiful painting of the Last Supper, as depicted by Leonardo de Vinci. The painting shows the twelve gathered around the table with Jesus. Although this painting is very beautiful and gives us a good picture of what it might have been, it is probably very misleading. We think of all meals as being eaten as we partake of them. We use a table and chairs to sit at a meal. But in the days of Jesus, they did not sit at a table such as we do. They lounged on cushions placed on the floor around a low table upon which the food was placed.

If you have seen movies showing the Roman emperors eating in such a manner, this is the way the people ~~of~~ in that part of the world ate. In the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark we read the account of James and John coming to Jesus and requesting that they be permitted to sit on the right and on the left of Jesus in his kingdom. Now this has some real significance since when people were seated at a <sup>MEAL</sup> ~~banquet~~, it was according to rank, ~~that they were seated~~. The most important person was seated at the very center or head of the table. The next important person was seated on his right, since

while the meal progressed he spoke mostly to that person. The next important person was on the left, and the ranking went on down the line. This is why we read in ~~the~~ Luke's account of the Last Supper, that a dispute arose among <sup>THEM</sup> which of them was to be the greatest.

And Jesus with the very wise counsel that He always gave, informed them that rather than looking to who should be the greatest, they should realize that they are all servants, and the greatest is actually he who serves. He asked them, "For which is greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table?" In other words the person who sits at table is considered the greatest, because others come and minister to him and serve him his meal. ~~But~~ Jesus went on to say, "But I am among you as one who serves." He is saying ~~that~~ "Here I am at the head of this table, and yet it is not beneath my dignity to serve you or to wait upon your needs."

"You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." He is telling them that since they have served Him here on earth, so will they be able to have fellowship with Him in His kingdom.

When we look at this passage in the light that it is teaching a lesson instead of merely telling the story of the Last Supper, we can see ~~that~~ there is much we can learn.

We can learn first that we are to be servants instead of ~~the~~ those who are waited upon. But isn't this contrary to the rules and the standards that we have set in society? Isn't it a part of the code that we move up the ladder ~~xxx~~ from the ~~xxx~~ very lowest to the next rung and then the next and so on. We are supposed to start out as the office boy and end up as the president of the corporation. But what happens if we expect the president of the corporation to stamp the mail, or lick the envelopes ~~and~~? It goes against all rules and standards doesn't it? But this is what Jesus <sup>is</sup>



saying. If we look at it from the church we see that a fellow is supposed to start out as just an ordinary preacher and move up to the president of the Association and then the Conference president and then the president of the whole church. Or a fellow starts out ~~as~~ <sup>As</sup> merely <sup>1</sup> a Sunday School teacher, and then becomes a deacon, and then an elder and then the ruling elder and holds the position as the ~~very~~ most respected and revered person of the congregation and is looked up to and sought out for advice.

But as is usually the case, that president of the church or that ruling elder, can lose sight of the fact that to serve is to do ~~so~~ even in the capacity of pushing a broom. Jesus wasn't saying that once you have attained age, or status, or prestige or whatever, that you automatically have it made and everyone else works. He wasn't saying that once you have served a certain length of time in the kingdom that you can sit back and let George do it. What He was saying was ~~that~~ once a servant always a servant. He was saying that no job ~~should be taken~~ in His church should be considered as being beneath my dignity. He was saying, "Look, I am showing you the way by my life and by my ~~example~~. If you are seeking to serve me, it means a whole commitment of your life. It means a commitment of all you have. It means a commitment to do the necessary thing, whether it be sweeping the floor, or teaching a class, or being sought after because you have attained some wisdom. But it means serving me, and forgetting all of the personal things that motivate you to seek your own stature and your own power and glory."

But along with this service He also promised reward. He said, "If you do this for me, then you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." Here is the pay for the job. We realize that we receive payment for what we do. We realize that we are compensated for our work. Well, here is the payment for being a servant in all of life. It is the privilege of sharing fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in His kingdom. But it is as always a payment that is deserved.

Jesus said if you ~~sow~~ sow sparingly, you will reap sparingly. If you serve sparingly you are going to eat and drink sparingly in the

kingdom to come. The Upper Room was not merely a place for Jesus to eat the Passover with His disciples, nor was it a place ~~mx~~ that served as the locale for the institution of ~~the Lord's~~ the Sacrament of Communion. But it served as yet another classroom for the instruction of the faithful.

The lessons taught there apply to us today as well as to those first followers of Christ. Jesus was teaching by word, and in a few short days He showed them by example, when He permitted Himself to die on the cross. The old familiar hymn tells us, "I will cling to the old Rugged Cross, and exchange it someday for a Crown." The life of service always means a cross. It means the giving up of self, losing our identity in Christ in order to partake of His kingdom.

Those who have stood by Him through thick and thin will in the end reign with Him. Those who have shared in the bearing of Christ's Cross will some day share in the wearing of His crown.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 31, 1974

RICKY VINROE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

PRELUDE MUSIC: "IN SPRING" DEMOREST  
"CHRIST WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM" SERGISSON

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 72 "NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD"

\*EXHORTATION

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 14: 26-42

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

OFFERING

ANTHEM: "THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY" BY GOUNOD  
CHANCEL CHOIR - SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

CHANCEL CHOIR - SOLO - CYNDIE SYBERT

## PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

— — — — — \*CONGREGATION S.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALVIN TAIT, JAMES  
McCLYMONDS, MIKE NAZARUK, ALLEN BOTACCHI.

MRS. VICKIE HOLT AND LYNNE BOSKO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY TODAY.

TONIGHT - 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

WEDNESDAY - 1:00 - LENTEN SERVICE - REMEMBER THIS  
BE ONE HALF HOUR EARLY SO THAT COUNCIL CAN MEET

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE  
HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY ARE WORK NIGHT IN THE APARTMENT  
AT 110 WALKER AVE. THERE IS A LOT OF PAINTING TO  
DO - ANYONE THAT CAN HELP MEN OR WOMEN - WE NEED YOU.

THE YOUTH WILL SPONSOR A BAKE SALE AT THE BUTLER MALL

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT. YOU MAY EITHER  
YOUR BAKED GOODS TO THE CHURCH FRIDAY EVENING OR

COURSE WILL BE OFFERED IN THE UNDERCROFT.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.  
GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN-YWCA 7:30 - CALL YWCA

SAME FOR MEN - YMCA - 6:00 - J.W. HARMON, KEN WEITZEL.

WELCOME VISITORS



TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP April 8, 1973

- The Organ Prelude
- \*The Hymn of Praise 475
- \*The Call to Worship
- \*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- \*The Kyrie
- \*The Assurance of Pardon
- The Scripture --- Mark 14:26-42
- \*The Gloria Patri
- The Anthem (Trinity)
- The Pastoral Prayer
- The Choral Response (Trinity)
- The Announcements
- The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
- \*The Doxology
- \*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
- The Hymn of Meditation 144
- The Sermon --- "Tragedy To Triumph!"  
 Act V - Gethsemane

- The Sermon Prayer
- \*The Hymn of Response 145
- \*The Benediction
- \*The Threefold Amen
- \*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mercersburg Association Meeting will be held on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> in Chambersburg from 2:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The cost for this is \$3.00, this includes the evening meal. Reservations must be turned in by next Sunday. See the Pastor about this.

We will observe the Rite of Confirmation next Sunday in both churches.

Bible Study will be held on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Church of God. Rev. Marsolf will be the leader.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome as new members today, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Anderson.

Anyone desiring to buy any of the wooden chairs, contact Paul Hepfer or Russell Raub. The price is \$4.00 per chair.

The amount owed on the organ has been reduced to \$436.00.

Thus far this year there has been \$579.00 collected for OCWM on our pledge of \$2,000.00.

The Heidelberg Men's Class will meet on Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

The Women's Guild will meet Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the home of Pearl Lepperd.

There will be a special Tenebrae Service held on Maundy Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mid-Week Lenten Service will be held at Trinity Methodist Church. Your Pastor will be the speaker.

1 thing did for him, never realized until dead, 2/  
 They left him alone  
 They permitted Js suffer pangs complete isolation  
 & despair of facing it all alone.

We old worst thing anyone endure is loneliness.  
 Man aged do this in institutions  
 off friends, family, relatives, no one care.  
 Viet Nam prisoners stated, "Hardest thing endure."

This what Js endure in "A Garden", Gethsemane.  
 Cannot minimize saying among friends,  
 because He wasn't,  
 He among indifferent, unfeeling, perhaps uncaring  
 men,  
 Men for whom he done much,  
 Men who should cared for him, as he cared them

But even desertion disciples, even dread unknown,  
 came God for help.  
 Did he find? Was prayer answered?  
 According Hebrews 5:7, it was, we read,  
 "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers  
 and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him  
 who was able to save him from death, and he was heard  
 for his Godly fear."

Prayer strange indefinable something, lacks descriptive  
 We can talk, try explain,  
 but unless person experienced its power in life,  
 it still mystery.

In book, "Way Of A Pilgrim," by unknown author, is  
 good illustration prayer.  
 This book supposedly true acct man's life & lifelong  
 search answers to life.  
 Takes place Russia around 1860's  
 Pilgrim in book never identified, writes as tho  
 relating story to friend.

1st chap. goes church hears priest refer Paul state-  
 ment I Thessa 5:17, to pray without ceasing.  
 Sets him wondering about, begins inquire how do this.  
 He unable find anyone answer question.  
 begin journey other towns seek answer.  
 No one answer until little town told monk  
 monastery nearby knows

He goes old monk asks, monk tells, pray, Lord Js Christ  
 have mercy on me.  
 Js to this, no more, but 3000 times day  
 hands place stay, begins pray prayer

"Tragedy To Triumph!"  
 Act V. A Garden

Text: Mark 14:34-36

"And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful,  
 even to death; remain here and watch.' And going  
 a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed,  
 that if it were possible, the hour might pass from  
 him. And he said, 'Abba Father, all things are  
 possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not  
 what I will, but what thou wilt.'"

Act 5 Lenten drama, confronted 1st time  
 tenseness, urgency, not present Before  
 reason: moving final stages drama  
 Js knows facing toughest test  
 Worst ordeal of life

Realizes actions provoked authorities  
 knows, they not stop at nothing to silence him

Luke's account Gethsemane starts,  
 "And he went as was his custom to Mt of Olives."  
 Find this statement evidence support claim Js  
 prayed often, sought God's help in life.

Only natural Him come garden pray, this greatest  
 hour of trial.

Luke also try impress reader, real urgency Js  
 praying, by stating sweat fell like large drops blood  
 Indicates great anguish, distress,  
 both mental, physical burden upon him.

Js stand out clearly in narrative, in greatest  
 hour of need, favorite companions deserted him  
 Each time go away pray, come back find asleep  
 Each time expect share anxiety, apprehension,  
 Each time disappointed finds sleeping

Thus see humanity these men,  
 they not face ordeal, problem not theirs, so  
 perhaps attitude, "Well, let him look out self,  
 just like we must do when have problem."

Perhaps felt he resolve problem like all others  
 Maybe thought back calming of sea,  
 Maybe thought miracles could whip up moments notice  
 Thinking may do again if need arose

Whatever thinking, we know they at ease, permitted  
 Js privacy he sought, they no disturb him.

Cannot expect God answer if we do not pray. 4/  
We must pray, pray, pray, pray ----  
and then expect answers,  
There those of us here know this to be fact.

Helen Steiner Rice, "Prayers Can't Be Answered  
Unless They Are Prayed."

This Jesus did when he came to A Garden, & A Garden  
was where he determined God's will to die.  
We each have our own garden in which we must  
determine what God wants from us.  
Have you come to it in earnest fervent prayer?

At 1st, difficult, finally able to do it. 3/  
Goes back monk tells him he did it.  
Monk tells, go back & pray 6000 times day  
He thinks impossible, but tries, & again able to  
do it, he does whole week,

Goes back monk, monk again tells, pray 12,000 times  
"Remain in your solitude, get up early, go to bed  
late, and come see me two weeks."

He does, finds after awhile he no need say prayer,  
mouth, mind do automatically.

He find pray without ceasing, but in process, he  
has found God.

All of prayers, all of mechanics served worth-  
while cause.

This what prayer should do, should put in touch  
with God.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Presby minister,  
"If I say prayer help you to peace and power, to  
wisdom and to vision, these very practical consid-  
erations are beside the point. There is but one  
reason sufficient in itself. Prayer is the way to  
know God, to glorify him, to enjoy him forever,  
and this it is we hold to be the chief end of man.  
For life is not really life at all until it becomes  
life in God."

Minister noticed little boy come church many times  
in week.

Would sit in pew & bow head.

1 day he asked him about it.

Boy said, "I like to come here for prayer,

It makes me feel bigger than I am."

This what prayer should do, should make feel bigger  
than we are, because our lives lived in God.

(Illustration Sweet Hour Of Prayer)

Here is how a blind man viewed prayer.

It is sweet hours of prayer, that bring about  
miracles in peoples lives,

It is sweet hours prayer, that change lives,

It was sweet hours prayer that kept our Saviour  
on his appointed course.

It will be sweet hours prayer that will change  
our lives, our congregation, all of us.

Each instance we talk about this morning, 1 thing  
heaven, Each one attempt contact God.

prayed fervently, earnestly,

pilgrim prayed prayer repeatedly,

Mr Walford, tho blind, prayed often for help.



## "Tragedy To Triumph"

### Act V Gethsemane

Text: Mark 14:34-36, "And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch.' And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed, that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, 'Abba Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.'"

In Act V of our Lenten drama we are now confronted for the first time with a tenseness and an urgency that has not been present before. The reason being that we are now moving into the final stages of this drama. Jesus knows that He is facing the toughest ordeal of His life. He realizes that by his actions he has provoked the authorities, and He knows they will stop at nothing to silence Him.

Luke's account of Gethsemane starts off with, "And he went as was his custom to the Mount of Olives." We find in this statement some evidence that would support the claim that Jesus prayed often and sought God's help in his life. So it was only natural for Him to come to the garden to pray in this his greatest hour of trial. Luke also tries to impress upon his readers the very real urgency of Jesus' praying by stating that he prayed so hard ~~that~~ his sweat fell to the ground like large drops of blood. This indicates that he was in great anguish both mental and physical and that there was a great burden upon him.

But the thing that stands out very clearly in this narrative, is the fact that in his hour of need, his favorite companions more or less deserted him. Each time he goes away from them to pray he comes back only to find them asleep. Each time he expects them to be sharing his anxiety, and his apprehension of the future. But each time he is disappointed and finds them ~~asleep~~ **SLEEPING.**

Thus we see in this instance the very humanity of these men. They were not facing the ordeal and so it was his problem ~~and~~ not theirs. Perhaps they had the attitude, "Well, let him look out for himself, just like we must do, when we have a problem." Perhaps they felt that he would

resolve this problem as he had so many others. Maybe they thought back to the calming of the sea when all seemed lost at that moment. Maybe they thought back to the miracles he seemed to be able to whip up at a moments notice, and were thinking that he would do this again if the need arose. But whatever their thinking, we know they were at ease and they permitted Jesus to have the privacy he sought and they did not disturb him.

But the one thing they did for him and probably never realized it until he was dead, and that was, they left him alone. They permitted him to suffer the pangs of complete isolation and the despair of facing it all alone. We are told that one of the worst things a person can endure is loneliness. Many of our aged must endure this in the institutions for the elderly. Being cut off, and apart from other friends and relatives, must be very difficult to endure. The prisoners who have returned have all stated that the hardest thing they had to endure was the complete loneliness that was thrust upon them.

Well, this is what Jesus must have endured in Gethsemane. We cannot minimize it by saying that he was surrounded by friends, because he wasn't. He was surrounded by indifferent, unfeeling and perhaps uncaring men. Men, for whom he had done much. Men who should have cared for him as much as he cared for them.

But even with the desertion of his disciples, and even with the dread of the unknown, He came to God and sought His help. Did He find it? Was His prayer answered? According to Hebrews 5:7 it was, for we read, "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his Godly fear."

Prayer is a strange undefinable something that lacks description. We can talk about it, we can explain it to someone, but unless that person tries it or has experienced its power, it still remains a mystery. In a wonderful book entitled, "The Way of A Pilgrim" by an

unknown author is found a very good illustration of prayer. This book is supposedly a true account of a man's life and his lifelong search for the answers to life. It takes place in Russia ~~about~~ around the 1860's. The pilgrim in the book is never identified and he writes it as though he were relating the story to a friend.

In the first chapter he goes to church and he hears the priest refer to Paul's remark in I Thessalonians 5:17, to pray without ceasing. This sets him to wondering about this and he begins to inquire how to do this. He is unable to find anyone who can answer his question. So he begins to journey to other towns seeking the answer. Each place he is told something different but nothing satisfies him until he comes to this little town and is told there is an old monk in a monastery nearby who could help him. He goes to the old monk and the monk tells him to pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." Just this and nothing else and he must pray it 3000 times a day.

Well, he ~~was~~ found a place to stay, and he began to pray the prayer. At first he found it difficult, but finally he was able to do it. So he goes back to the monk and tells him and the monk replies, "Good, now go home and pray it 6000 times a day." He thinks this is impossible, but he tries it and strangely enough he is able to do it, and he does it for a whole week. He goes to the monk again and the monk tells him to pray it 12,000 times a day. He tells him, "Remain in your solitude, get up early, go to bed late, and come to see me in a fortnight."

So he does this and he finds that after awhile he does not need to say the prayer because his mouth and his voice do it automatically. He finds that he not only can pray without ceasing, but in the process he has found God. So all of his prayers and all of the mechanics of it, served a very worthwhile cause. And this is what prayer should do, it should put us in touch with God.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake the Presbyterian clergyman who was



responsible for the COCU movement once said, "If I say prayer will help you to peace and power, to wisdom and to vision, these very practical considerations are beside the point. There is but one reason sufficient in itself. Prayer is the way to know God, to glorify Him, to enjoy Him forever, and this it is we hold to be the chief end of man. For life is not really life at all until it becomes life in God."

A minister noticed that a little boy ~~xxxxxx~~ came into the church many times during the week. He would sit in a pew and bow his head. So one day he asked him about it. The Boy said, "I like to come, here for prayer. It makes me feel bigger than I am." This is what the result of prayer should be, that we feel bigger than we are, because our lives become lives lived in God.

There are many examples of prayer and what it does, but I would like to share just a few with you to help explain ~~the~~ prayer.

~~(Illustration of Sweet Hour of Prayer)~~

(Illustration of Sweet Hour of Prayer).

This morning we sang this hymn as our opening hymn. Here is how a man who was blind viewed prayer.

(Illustration of David Brainerd Missionary and Indians).

Here God answered the prayers of one of His servants in a miraculous way. Perhaps we may not need a prayer answered in such a spectacular fashion, nor with such unexpected endings. But just as surely as God has answered the prayers of many others in many different ways, He will answer our prayers. He answered the fervent prayers of His Son Jesus Christ, so He had the strength and the courage to face His destiny, and He will answer our prayers as well.

~~Helel Abner Rice wrote a poem entitled, "Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed," which states what prayer is all about very well.~~

~~But there is one thing that has occurred in each of these~~  
But there is one thing that has occurred in each of these

instances of prayer. In each one we can see that an attempt was made to contact God. Jesus prayed earnestly and fervently to God in this His greatest hour of need. Mr. Walford though handicapped with blindness, prayed often to God for help. Mr. Brainerd in a strange place and surrounded by an unknown danger, sought God for his help and strength. In each instance prayer was offered. We cannot expect God to help us or to hear us if we do not ask for His help and guidance. We must pray and pray, and pray, and then expect God to answer as He will.

Helen Steiner Rice wrote a little poem along these lines and she called it, "Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
WEDNESDAY EVE LENTEN SERVICE APRIL 3, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

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ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "INVOCATION" MARTIN  
"CONSECRATION" RAND

SILENT MEDITATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 461 "SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD  
LEAD US"

\*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 26: 36-46

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "COMPLINE" O'DONNELL

HYMN No. 476 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

SERMON: "HIS ACCEPTANCE"

SERMON PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 470 "SAVIOUR, THY DYING LOVE"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" SHEPPHERD

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
THE COUNCIL WILL MEET FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED ON PALM SUNDAY.

RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL BE FOLLOWING THE  
MAUNDY EVENING HOLY COMMUNION - IN THE UNDERCROFT.

RICHARD ANDREWS - 371



## Jesus's Acceptance

Text: Matthew 26; 42

### "YOUR WILL BE DONE" WAS WHAT JESUS SAID

The acceptance of what was to befall Him, is what separates Jesus from mere humans. We can read in the paper on almost any given day of cases where someone who has been convicted of a crime is appealing for a new trial. Even people who have been caught in the perpetration of a crime, or caught as we usually say, red handed, plead not guilty to the charge. The human reaction to anything that threatens our life, our existence, or our accustomed way of living is to fight it with all the forces at our disposal. This is in direct contrast to the reaction of Jesus.

We are told in our Scripture that Jesus went to the garden called Gethsemane. There were no gardens of any size in Jerusalem, because it was a city built on a hill and every inch that could be used for building purposes was used. The wealthy citizens had their private gardens on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. The word Gethsemane means, an olive vat or an olive press. There isn't much doubt that this was indeed a garden with olive trees in it. To be able to go to a garden such as this would require that the owner would have to give permission to do so. Remember ~~that~~ this was a private garden and not for the use of the public. This would have meant that Jesus was a friend of the owner. It is truly an amazing thing that the friends of Jesus are nameless in the Gospels. The only one who is named is Joseph of Arimathea. But there was the man who gave Jesus the donkey on which He rode on Palm Sunday. Then there was the man who loaned Him the upper room to eat the Last Supper. And finally the man who loaned Him the use of the garden.

There are certain things that we can see when we ponder the praying in the garden by Jesus. We first witness the agony of Jesus. He was very sure at this time that His death was imminent. The burden of knowing this must have hung like a weight around His neck. No one wants to die at the tender age of 33. Here is where the struggle for Jesus really began in earnest. He

had to submit His will to that of God's will or else turn His back on God's will and let God's plan be frustrated. Here we see the lesson that all of us learn at one time or another in our lives. And that is the lesson of learning how to accept what we cannot understand. Jesus had to learn this lesson too. All He knew was that the will of God was calling Him to go on. He knew that death awaited Him in the near future, and He knew that as He stood in that garden ~~that~~ He had to make a choice between doing the will of God, or refusing to do the will of God. The pressure on Him must have <sup>BEEN</sup> tremendous at this moment. The temptation to run, to get away from it would almost be overpowering. A Christian Theologian of Africa named Tertullian who lived around 150 years after the life of Jesus, tells of a saying that is attributed to Jesus, but is not found in any of the Gospels yet has been handed down to this day. Quote "No one who has not been tempted can enter the kingdom of Heaven." This is to say that each man has his own private Gethsemane. Each man comes to the place where he either must accept or refuse what to him is the will of God. And this is where each man has to learn to say, "<sup>your</sup> ~~thy~~ will be done."

IN MATTHEW & MARK

Then here we see the loneliness of Jesus. He took His three chosen disciples with Him. But they were so exhausted that they slept and Jesus may as well have been alone for all the comfort they were to Him. But even had they remained awake and alert, the battle had to be fought by Jesus alone. No one but Him could reach the decision that must be reached. No one but He was able to decide which way to go. Each man at some time in his life knows the loneliness of facing decisions that must be made, and can only be made by him. But we have the comfort of knowing that Jesus went through this and this should give us the strength we need to go on.

Then we see the trust of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark tells this story very much like Matthew, and well it should because Matthew used Mark's Gospel as his reference book. But there is one little difference between Matthew and Mark and that is the word Abba, is placed at the beginning of Jesus's prayer. He prayed Abba Father. There is a certain loveliness to this word that



is unknown to most people. Thesword Abba was used by young children as an endearing term to their fathers. sort of like daddy, only with a more loving meaning about it. Jesus prayed to God as a child, in complete trust, "Not as <sup>STORY</sup> ~~WHAT I WANT~~ <sup>BUT NOT</sup> ~~WHAT YOU WANT~~" ~~I would have it, but as you will have it.~~ This would take complete trust and love in God for Him to do this. But do it He did and His trust and love endured with Him until His death on that cross.

The example that Jesus set for us is indeed a difficult one  
to follow. There are different ways in which the acceptance of what life brings  
is handled by differnt people. Some people very graciously accept what life  
has to offer and grin and bear it. Others complain their way through life ac-  
cepting what comes to them grudgingly. The thing that determines how well we  
can accept the problems of life is how well do we accept di-appointments?  
Suppose for instance we had planned a trip somewhere and because of illness we  
had to call it off. Would we curse and swear and bemoan the fact that life  
<sup>OR WOULD WE SAY THAT COOKIE CRUMBED</sup>  
was unfair and we were being pushed around etc. There is a bit of philo-sophy  
mother has used for years ~~and I have sort of adopted it as my own also.~~  
This is the way of accepting disappointments with the consolation that what  
we wanted or desired was <sup>IT WAS NOT</sup> not to be. That God did not mean ~~T~~for us to have it  
in the first place. ~~MOTHERS XX~~  
~~XXX~~ For ME & FAMILY  
~~XXX~~  
<sup>IT WORKS</sup> This philosophy has worked very well, in  
<sup>WF</sup> fact to the extent that <sup>OUR</sup> generally find out later that ~~my~~ wants or desires  
<sup>OUR</sup>would not be in the best interest. ~~of my self or my family.~~  
How we accept what life brings our way, very often is a determining factor <sup>PEOPLE</sup> of what kind of ~~a person~~  
we are. Here is where many people come into conflict with society as well as  
the law. Because of the fact that some of these people are living in conditions  
which are below that of others <sup>FEEL THEY</sup> they must rebel against it. We have seen this  
<sup>IN OUR COUNTRY FOR PAST FEW YEARS</sup> happen the past two summers and we are told that we will see it happen this  
~~-summer so well.~~ Now I am not saying that these people have no right to ex-  
press their disapproval of their plight, but I am saying that they have no  
right to destroy what belongs to other people simply because they cannot accept



what life has brought to them. We each have things in our lives that we would gladly change if we could. But because there are people in the world who can live a lot better than some other people, does not mean that we should all riot to get this for ourselves without working for it. Yet this is the philosophy of some people in our society today. Here again we find that we must learn to accept many things which we do not understand. We never know what opportunity to serve may be ours because of the way we accept the events that come to us. Any event may bring us agony, loneliness, or a sense of inability to cope with life. But we can overcome all of these things just as Jesus did if we put our trust in our Father.

God does not afflict us with more than we can possibly bear. Although there may be times <sup>WHEN WE</sup> ~~that~~ are not so sure of this. It is human nature to doubt, to have misgivings, and to worry. But we can turn our doubts and worries into peace and comfort by trusting in God. Jesus gave us the example of complete trust in God. The trust that Jesus showed during His time of suffering was like that of a little child. But He showed His love for His Father by taking Him at His word and submitting to His will. Our love and our trust should parallel the love and trust of Jesus. If He was able to submit to the will of His Father, under the very extreme circumstances that He had to face, then there is no reason why we can't do likewise in the very mild circumstances we face. God loves us. We are each one of His children. As a Father, we should be able to come to Him and talk to Him through prayer, and then be willing to do His will as He reveals it to us in our lives. As followers of Jesus, let us each try to follow His example and try to live our lives each day, striving to do the will of our Father. Let us pray.

"His Acceptance!"

Text: Matthew 26:42b,

My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done."

At the foot of the Mt. of Olives is an enclosed spot that is called Gethsemane. There are presently eight olive trees there, and it is believed that these remaining eight trees were there when Jesus came and prayed in this garden. We are told that beggars line the road around this place, but they only bother the visitors upon their return from the garden. The reason being, that the individual who has gone to the garden in which Jesus prayed, and has knelt ~~on the spot on which Jesus knelt~~ perhaps on the very spot on which Jesus knelt, is moved very deeply and is more receptive to giving to those who seek help.

This place has become a shrine which ~~all~~ is a must to all visitors who strive to retrace the steps of Jesus. Thus beggars and merchants are prone to take advantage of a golden opportunity such as this.

We are also told that at the time of Jesus there were no gardens of any size in Jerusalem, because it was a city built on a hill, and every inch of building space was used to the best advantage. The wealthy citizens had <sup>private</sup> gardens on the slopes of the Mt. Of Olives. The word Gethsemane means, "Olive Vat", or "Olive Press." It was believed that in order to have access to a garden on the Mt. Of Olives, a person had to know the owner. Thus it is thought that Jesus was friends with yet another influential person who owned this garden. We have seen in this passion story of Jesus that there have been several instances in which ~~an~~ unknown persons, and probably persons of wealth supported the ministry of Jesus from behind the scenes. Someone supplied the donkey upon which Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Someone supplied the upper room in which they ate the Last Supper.. Someone must have supplied the garden in which Jesus prayed. The only instance that ~~ix~~ records the silent supporters of Jesus, is the report that Joseph of Arimathea comes



forawrd to claim the body of Jesus after He is dead.

There are certain things we can see when we look at the acceptance of Jesus. We first see that He had a certain air of confidence in what he was doing. We can say this because in a few verses preceeding what we read as Scripture, we read, "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mt. Of Olives." Now although the singing of this hymn was a part of the Passover Feast and involved the singing of Psalm 115 - 118, just this once Jesus could have requested that it be omitted if he were so troubled that he could not bear to ~~xxxxxx~~ sing before his arrest. But the very nature of the Psalms sung <sup>speaks</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ of a strength that comes from outside of ourselves. Perhaps we have often thought of Jesus going to his cross as a man defeated abd beaten. As a man filled with dread and forboding. But he went instead as a man singing - with a heart newly dedicated to God and a spirit filled with a strange joy. Listen to the words of this last Psalm of the hymn they sung, and see if it is not a song that would uplift the soulf of any man. (Read Psalm 118).

Thus we see here a note of triumphant acceptance.

But even with this joy in the knowledge of the strength of God, Jesus had intermittant periods of anguish. We can only compare it with the feeble human comparison, of someone who is awaiting the start of an important event or moment in his or her life. Something like an acotr or actress awaiting the opening curtain. Or in sports, awaiting the opening kickoff, or the first pitch. All of these moments cause bütterflies, and a certain sense of dread and forboding. I am sure that all of us at one time or another have been involved in similar circumstances and have questioned ourselves about it, asking the question, "What am I doing here? How did I ever let myself get talked into this?" But after the beginning takes place, we are able to fulfill our role whatever it may be. Thus it probably was with Jesus, only on a much more greater scale.

Here in this garden the real struggle actually began for Jesus. He knew that all of other events were mere preliminaries leading up to the main event. Now the main event was only moments away as he knelt here in prayer. Here is also where Satan could once again come forth to lead his thoughts and his determination away from fdoing the will of the Father. Thoughts such as his being too young to die, what purpose was really being served in this sacrifice, why did this have to happen and so on?



His prayer in the garden was, "My Father." By coming to God in this manner he came to him as ~~xxxxx~~ any child would seeking guidance and help from a loving father. But through all of this is the lesson for each of us, and that is accepting what we cannot understand. There has been considerable argument down through the years as to whether Jesus really knew and understood all of the ramifications of the act which he was about to perform. Whether he did or not is really immaterial. What is more important is the fact that we have before us ~~xxxxxxxx~~ a lesson on complete acceptance of what life is setting forth, and a complete ~~xxxxx~~ reliance that God will see us through. This was what Jesus showed most strongly in His acceptance. His attitude ~~xxx~~ as determined by his actions was just about, "Well, I ~~xxxx~~ do not understand all that you are asking of me, but if this is what you want me to do, then I will do it. You have led me and directed me in the past, and I have been blessed by your help, so I'll continue to accept what you give to me, for I know it will turn out for the best."

Many times I talk to people about the problems and concerns of life, and often the question arises, "Why does this have to happen?" Or they will ask, "Why me," or, "Why my family?" All of these questions are legitimate and we do indeed seek for answers. But there are no hard and fast answers. We can only say as Jesus, "What you want me to do I will do, and what you want me to accept I will accept."

Which brings us to our third point and that is the answer of Jesus, "Thy will be done." In the perfect prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples and to us, are to be found the words, "Thy will be done." Here he uses it in his own personal prayer to God, thus showing us that this should always be our prayer. ~~My~~ "Not what I want God, but what You want for me, ~~or~~ whatever it is you want me to do." This should be the example that we follow and pattern our prayers from.

To cry as Jesus, "Let this cup pass from me" is only a natural human cry, and there is nothing wrong with it. But always we must add to it, "Nevertheless, not what I want, but what you want for me." Jesus was able to do this simply because all of his life was lived in this manner. But you see we try to lean upon our own wills and our own ways. Our own will becomes so dear to us, that nothing else seems reasonable, or is so right for us. It is then that God takes a secondary role, and we have become self-sufficient.

But Jesus showed us what true sonship is, by his renunciation of self, and his acceptance of God's will for his life. And his acceptance of God's will for his death is just that much stronger a case for our following in his steps.

In the Gospel of John he said, "My meat is to do the will of him who sent me." Running through all of the life of Jesus and in particular his last week of his life, is the thread of placing his life in the hands of God and seeking to follow what God had ~~desired~~ willed for him to do.

Our love and our trust of the Father should parallel that of Jesus. Like a little child he accepted God at his word, and did His Father's will. Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote in his poem "Memoriam," "Our wills are ours, to make them thine." This is how Jesus accepted his life, and his death. This is the acceptance that God also demands of us. Let us each strive to accept God at His word and to know that He will be with us as Jesus promised in the Gospel, "Lo I am with you always ~~to the~~ even unto the end of the world."

"Tragedy To Triumph!"  
Act IV Dining Out

Le 22:27-30a

"For which is the greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

"When do we eat?" popular phrase around Link home familiar ring to many here prob.

Well known to disciples

feeding of 4000, & 5000 dis. not only concerned show crowd fed, but concerned personal hunger.

But act 4, not only meal but, <sup>ENJOYING A RARE</sup> chance fellowship  
Perhaps dis looked enviously times could be alone Js pleasure to be guarded zealously  
almost always surrounded by people seeking help  
can draw this conclus, we read several instances  
dis tried discourage peop sot Js aid

On this occasion precede East of Pass, came & asked,

"Where will we prepare this meal with you?"

surprisingly Js answers go Jerus,

look man carry water jug.

when spot, follow

1st sounds rather absurd, look man carry water jar.

actually rather unique,

those days pre-womens libe women carry all water j

rare site see man carry jar

simple task then look man carry jar

Then say to householder, <sup>the teacher says to you</sup> "Where is the guest room

where I am to eat the Pass with my dis.?"

pre-arranged plan.

prob hidden friend Js

hidden because risk with authorities,

helped quiet, unobtrusively

such case man owned house

pre-arrangement - man send serv carry water given day

J disc look for him, prob cert spot,

they follow, ask master where eat,

password, "Teacher wants to know?"



The crowds that went before Him and that followed Him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 7, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "OPEN THE GATES OF THE TEMPLE" KNAPP  
"ADORATION" BOROWSKI

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 176 "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE: THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 15: 16-39

HYMN No. 158 "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "THE PALMS"

FAURE

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ANTHEM: "JESUS OF NAZARETH: HOSANNA!"

HANDLEN

SERMON: "ANOTHER HILL"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 161 "BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY! DYKES"

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE PALMS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE ALTAR IN MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. JOHN J. SWEENEY BY THE ALVIN TAIT FAMILY. YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THEM AFTER THE SERVICE - THE USHERS WILL PASS THEM OUT.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES PENAR. DEACON AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: SHARON STAUFFER, LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCPRIDE.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING PERSONS INTO OUR CHURCH FELLOWSHIP TODAY.

BY CONFIRMATION: STEVE BASEHORE GEORGE MARBURGER  
CHRIS CAMPBELL DENNIS MASTER  
GORDON KENNEDY BILLY SHEPPECK  
NORENE KERR CHERYL SNYDER  
NANCY LINK JEFF SNYDER  
BRIAN PFABE BILLY WATTERSON

LETTER OF TRANSFER: PAUL HOLT

REV. RALPH C. LINK ROBERT K. SYBERT  
MRS. SHIRLEY LINK MRS. KAREN VENSEL  
DALE LINK MRS. EMOGENE YOAS  
LLOYD LINK  
PAUL W. PFABE  
MRS. BETTY PFABE  
LINDA PFABE

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

LARRY R. FALKNER  
MRS. BRENDA MCKRUIT  
DEBORAH MELTON

TONIGHT: 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE.

WED. - 7:30 - PREPARATORY SERVICE "HIS DEVOTION"

THURS. - 7:30 - HOLY COMMUNION (PEWS) "HIS DETERMINATION"

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL PLAY THE PIANO TODAY.

WE WISH TO THANK THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR THE CORSAGE

AND BOUTONNIERS, ALSO FOR RENTAL OF GOWNS FOR CONF. C.

GOOD FRI. BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH 8-10 - LUTHERN HALL.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 235

I more thing points out,  
the effect crucif on centurion sttd by saw exec  
carried out properly.  
We read text (read it)

Or find out mean, look other trans.  
Plm. A Son of God, New Engl, A Son of God, Jerus bib,  
A Son of God, early RSV, A Son of God  
1. best RSV, & King James, The Son of God.

Looked up greek double check.  
Ex: logos means word. In sentence if by self means  
word. If gas greek o pronounced He front, this def  
article, it mean The Word.  
This verse has original gr, The Son

Why distinction? to prove A or The?  
Just this, if A Son of God, then Js not unique.  
All us A Son of God, A generic term, not mas, fem.  
But He become THE Son of God, something special, really  
unique, out ordinary from the earth

Js say Jn. "And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all  
men to myself."

Jn goes on tell this signify how he die  
In this Js tell magnetic power of cross.  
His sac on that cross to draw ppl all walks life  
Signif of centurion, 1st man accept Christ for what  
He actually was.

Perhaps now see why Lenten series chronological order,  
& that we observed Palm Sun 1st Sun Lent

These came this morn, think hear story nice little tale  
beautiful Sun. ride thru sts Jerus, by meek little man  
on meek little donkey, I indeed sorry disappoint.  
More appropriate today, with these yg peope become  
m bers church, we tell what being Xpian means  
& what cross really signifies

Conf. & ch mamber, not nice little ritual go thru public  
display, or please parents  
It call discipleship.

It accept Js Xp gave his life me a sinner  
Not only accept what he did, & thus forgives my past  
sins, but promise live Xpian life, bring others to  
it as well.

It mean speech different, life changed, now live new  
life. All things now become new, old passed away.  
This very serious step we take or took when joined  
church.

If have been content sit comfortable pews Sun after  
Sun, neglected tell others our faith, belief.

## "Tragedy To Triumph!"

### Act 6 Another Hill

Text: Mark 15:39,

"and when the centurion, who stood by facing him,  
saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, 'Truly  
this man was the Son of God.'"

In lit, play, movie, whatever medium used convey  
story, each episode bld on one preceeding  
continues bld til plot reaches hi point  
hi point most gripping part story

passion Js like this,  
starts out innocently with ride thru Jerus streets  
astride donkey  
continues bld suspense intrigue & big scene upon  
Js & he confronted death penalty  
if pass. story read as lit, see contains all elem-  
ents necess ideal writing or perhaps best seller.

IF read as lit,  
but if read Theologically, then has meaning purpose,  
my life.

& this only way can approach it.

All fairly familiar how Js arrived before pilate  
heard many things legal, illegal about trial.  
Let us look at scene on yet ANOTHER HILL.

Read how abused by soldiers, then taken out be crucif  
Simon pressed into service, cross beam carry  
Js unable carry, not cause weak, but little sleep,  
been beaten, no physical strength left.  
(at left, waning, this make execution easier

Mark tell 3rd hr when crucify Js, this 9 AM

Mt Lk no tell, but state dark from 6th 9th hr,  
this noon to 3

Jn tells Js released by pilate 6th hr,  
this 6-9 trad came from.

More likely 9-3, or 6 hrs, cause crucif slow, pain

Mark acct read curtain torn 2, top-bottom

Signif this, curt hide holy of holies

No man penetrate veil except priest Day Atonement

Spirit God dwell behind curt

God separated peop by curt, no man knew what like

but death Js way opened God,

veil separated by Js, way open presence God

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

31

Or worse yet if have not come except once yr, we  
guilty betray Js as surely Judas Iscariot.

Out task Xpian, live, give, share.

Means we live as Xpian, try be Xpian all things.

Means give what can, what able give.

Means give possess to God according how blessed,

Blessed much, give much, blessed little, give lit.

But if have much, give little, again turn back God &  
subject damnation.

Be a Xpian means give of selves with talents to share  
them with others.

Must share our love, our concern, our talents & above  
all, must share Jesus Christ.

This asking too much?

Of course it isn't.

We each have much we can live, and give, and share.

(Illustration policeman in Indiana)

Here examp ordinary man involved bizarre circum,  
yet he able serve Lord.

Can we common people do any less.

U have seen these yg peop accept Xp today.

Have seen these adults reprofess their faith,

Now up U & I to join with them in spreading Gospel  
of Xp.

U & I should show them by our examp.

Are we up to task, or was merely another formality.

Would each do well adopt last verse closing hymn,

Miss Elizabeth Clephane wrote,

"I take O cross thy shadow, for my abiding place,  
I seek no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross."

May we each re-examine our hearts, our lives, and our  
conscience, & perhaps after doing so we will find we  
need to re-profess & re-accept Jesus Christ in order  
to set our lives aright.

If any unsure or uncertain where stand in relation to  
Christ, be glad talk you about it.



"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act VI The Cross

Text: Mark 15:39,

"And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus  
breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God!'"

In literature, or in a play or movie, whatever the medium used to convey the story, ~~the~~ each episode builds upon the one preceeding and continues to build until finally the plot reaches a high point. This high point is usually at the most gripping point of the story.

The Passion of Jesus Christ was very much like this. It all seems to start out so innocently with a ride through the streets of Jerusalem astride a donkey, and then it continues to build in suspense and intrigue until finally the one big scene is upon Him and Jesus is confronted with the death penalty. If we were to read this Passion story as literature, we could see that it contains all of the elements necessary to make it an ideal piece of writing and perhaps a best seller. I said IF we were to read it only as literature. But if we read it and study it along the lines of being Theological and having a deep bearing upon my religion, then it takes on an aspect of not only good literature, but as being very significant for my life. And this is the only way that we can approach it.

We are all fairly familiar with all of the background of how Jesus has arrived at this ~~day~~ moment in His life when he faces his accusers before Pilate, so we need not delve into this area too much. We have also heard many things said about the trial and its legality or illegality, so we will not delve into that area either. Instead, let us look at the scene from the point of when Jesus is taken out to be crucified.

We read of His being abused by the Roman soldiers and how He is then led away to the scene of the execution. On the way a man named Simon is pressed into service to bear the cross beam of the cross,

since Jesus is unable to do so. This does not mean to imply that he was physical weakling, but this is a result of the long sleepless night He endured, as well as the physical beatings he has had and the anguish and torment He endured up to this point. So His physical strength is waning and this made the task of those performing the execution that much easier.

Mark tells us it was about the third hour when they crucified Jesus and this would have placed the time at 9:00 A.M. Matthew and Luke do not state when the crucifixion began, but they do remark that it was dark from the sixth to the ninth hour, or from 12:00 to 3:00. John tells us that Jesus was released from Pilate to the soldiers at the sixth hour or at noon. And this is where we get the tradition that He hung on the cross from noon until 3:00. But it <sup>is</sup> more likely that He hung on the cross 6 hours since crucifixion was a slow and painful death.

In this, Mark's account of the crucifixion we read that the curtain of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This has a good deal of significance behind it. This curtain was the curtain that covered the Holy of Holies. It was the veil beyond which no man could penetrate, except the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. It was the curtain behind which the Spirit of God dwelt. So you see up to this time God had been hidden and remote. He was a God that was separated from the people by a curtain. No man knew what He was like. But in the death of Jesus we now see the way opened up to God. God was now revealed He was no longer hidden by a veil. The veil had been separated by Jesus and the way was now opened to the presence of God.

But there is also one more thing that needs to be pointed out, and this was the effect the crucifixion had upon the Roman centurion who stood by and saw that the execution was carried out in the proper manner. We read, "And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God.'"

In order to find out just what this means I went back to the original Greek to ~~extensive~~ satisfy my curiosity. I discovered something that I think is very significant. I checked <sup>first</sup> different ~~versions~~ translations of the Bible. In Philip's it reads, "A son of God." In the New English Bible it reads, "A Son of God." In the Jerusalem Bible it reads, "A Son of God." And in the early Revised Standard version of the Bible it also reads, "A Son of God." But in the latest version of the Revised Standard Version and in the King James Version it reads, "The Son of God."

~~Nexts find out just why I checked the Greek and it reads,   
 ~~theos oikos dios autheos oikos oikos oikos~~~~

For instance

To understand the greek we must first know that a word such a LOGOS standing by itself means A WORD. But if we place the <sup>OR THE DEFINITE ARTICLE</sup> word HO in front of it it becomes THE WORD. Thus when we look at this verse in the original Greek we see very clearly the word HO in the sentence which means that it is translated THE Son of God.

Now why the big distinction to prove whether it is A or THE? It becomes important for several reasons and the main one is that if Jesus is A Son of God, He is not really unique, for you and I are really that. But if He becomes THE Son of God, this makes Him something special and something beyond the ordinary, and so something very unique.

Jesus said as recorded in the Gospel of John, ~~He is the~~ ~~lifted up from the earth~~, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John goes on to tell us this was to signify how he would die. Now in this we can see that Jesus is telling the magnetic power of the cross. He is telling that His sacrifice upon that cross was meant to draw people from all walks of life. So the significance of the testimony of the centurion is that ~~he~~ he is the first person to accept Christ for what He was. ~~and this is the cross~~

Now perhaps you can see why I said when we started this Denten series that I would take it in chronological order and we observed <sup>that</sup>



Palm Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent. For those of you who came here this morning thinking you were going to hear a nice little tale of a beautiful Sunday ride through the streets of Jerusalem, on a meek little donkey, by a meek little man, I am <sup>indeed</sup> sorry to disappoint you. It is more appropriate today with these young people becoming members of the church to tell them and all of us what it means to be a Christian. *AND WHAT THAT CROSS SIGNIFIES.*

Confirmation, and church membership is not a nice little ritual that we go through for public display, or to please our parents. It is a call to discipleship. It is an acceptance that ~~this~~ Jesus Christ gave up His life for me because I am a sinner. It is not only an acceptance of what He did for me, and thus forgives me of my sins of the past, but it is a promise to live a Christian life and to try to bring others into this acceptance by my life, by my speech and by all that I do. And this my friends is a very serious step that we take ~~or~~ took when we joined the church. And if we have been content to sit in our comfortable pews Sunday after Sunday and have neglected to tell others of our Christ and what He means to <sup>us</sup>, then we have betrayed our Lord, just as surely as Judas ~~did~~, *SCARLOT DID.*

~~Perhaps some of the message is lost and falling on deaf ears, because I was greatly surprised to hear people say~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Our task as Christians is to live, to give, and to share. This means we are to live as Christians and to try to be Christians in all things. It means we are to <sup>GIVE</sup> to the Lord what we can, and what we are able to give. This means that we should <sup>GIVE OF</sup> ~~share~~ our possessions <sup>to</sup> God according to how he has blessed us. If He has blessed us with much then we must give much, and naturally if we have little we can only give little. But if we have much and we give little we are again turning our backs upon God and are subject to His damnation. To be a Christian also means to give of ourselves with our talents and to share this with others. We must share our love, our concern, our talents and above all we must share Jesus

Christ. Now is this asking too much of anyone of us here this morning?

Of course it isn't, because we each have much we can live, and give and share.

(Illustration of policeman in Indiana)

Here is an example of a common ordinary man who was involved in a bizarre circumstance and yet in it, he was able to serve His Lord. Can we common ordinary people do any less? You have seen these young people accept Jesus Christ today, and you have heard them make their ~~xxxxx~~ public acceptance of Him. Now it is up to you and I to join with them in spreading the Gospel of Christ, and to show them by our example what it means to be a Christian. Are we up to the task or was this just merely another formality we go through?

We would each do well to adopt as our theme the wonderful last verse of our closing hymn written by Miss Elizabeth Clephane who wrote,

"I take O Cross thy shadow, for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the Cross."

May we each one re-examine our hearts, our lives, and our consciences <sup>WILL FIND WE</sup> and perhaps after doing so we need to re-profess and re-accept Christ in ~~our lives~~ order to set out lives right.

"His Devotion!"

Scripture: John 6:22-40

Text: John 6:38,39,

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day."

When think qualities Js that stand out, can't help think His Devotion  
Word devotion used like many others, convey several things, & have implied in meaning more than one thing.

We speak devoted son or daughter usually meant, loving, obedient, trustworthy, concerned, cares deeply etc.  
Other words devotion contains many attributes rather than one.

Js son such as this showed devo earthly father, mother, with love, concern, obedience, trustworthiness etc.

Showed devo to H. Father complete subj of life to what Father wanted to do.

Also tried show His Devo by pointing them to Father  
Other words His Devo real thing & lived, but something tried instill by verbal message also

Peop came Js after feed 5M, Js tells bluntly only w ted see him, more food, vs 26  
Not interested him, but what can do

vs 27, tells sealed by God  
ancient times signet ring of King, ruler, gov. etc  
archaeology & rings.  
soft clay, signet, hardened unbroken official.

vs 28 question?

vs 29 answer, believe in whom sent.

Ask for sign, peop sceptical, perhaps no more than today.

wanted tangible evidence, something concrete told of manna & how this evidence of God to forefathers.

Js tell He evidence, no further proof needed  
He bread sent by God, & life sustained this bread

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 1974

THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

PREPARATORY SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "LENTEN MEDITATION" PEERY  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 219 "SAVIOUR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE"  
\*INVOCATION, PAGES 14-20 IN HYMNAL

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

\*THE LITANY

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 6:22-40

\*OFFERING

OFFERTORY "BEFORE THE CROSS" OVERHOLT

HYMN No. 214 "JUST AS I AM"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "HIS DEVOTION"

EXHORTATION, PAGE 18

CONFESSION OF SIN

CONFESSIONAL QUESTIONS AND ASSURANCES

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 464 "DWELL IN ME, O BLESSED SPIRIT"

\*BENEDICTION AND TRIPLE AMEN

\*POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL IN B FLAT" OTIS

\*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PEW) WILL BE

CELEBRATED TOMORROW EVENING AT 7:30 P.M.

RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL FOLLOW IN THE UNDERCROFT -

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED FOR A FELLOWSHIP HOUR.

A GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH WILL BE HELD FROM 8-10 AT LUTHER HALL ON MCKEAN STREET NEXT TO LIBRARY.

OUR SANCTUARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 7-9 P.M. ON GOOD FRIDAY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRE TO MEDITATE AND PRAY.

3 AM SERVICE ST. ANDREW'S

WELCOME VISITORS

ETCHAM HOSP ALL GEN.



vs 38 spells out plainly

2/

He telling he complete devo cause of Father  
nothing can sway, deter from task  
He willing place self hands of God  
own will not considered any way, shape, form.

Here complete subjection will of Father  
Difficult we understand this complete devo  
never been another walk face earth devoted so  
completely Js.

Can cite exams men, women devoted one special cause  
but no one devoted completely, life surrendered  
all faculties, all possess, all ambitions, all  
desires, all everything serving cause as Js.

Think what take do this.

This require complete subjection all thots, all  
ambitions, all desires, all very things life,  
all wrapped up 1 cause.

Our minds cannot fathom this meaning

We come last Wed. Holy Week, prepare selves Lord's  
Supper, tomorrow nite

We in sense prepare selves & lives, in new perspect  
We strive say, "I sinner, sinned many sins past,  
now try devo all thots, all life, all desires,  
all ambitions, all of life to worthily prepare  
partake Lord's Supper, of Body & Blood.

We looking our devo & comparing to His Devotion.  
When make comparison cannot we see Ours & His  
far, far apart?

Can we not feel as Jon the Bap, ~~xxx~~ we standing  
in presence of one whose shoes unworthy to lace?

Do not give sense shame & guilt, that one loved  
us so much before ever born, he willing die for us?

This was His Devotion,

A devotion never be ours

but a devo God asks us have in us whatever measure  
can possibly have.

Let us ask God's guidance, blessing in our lives  
to have devo more ~~xx~~ deeper, much stronger, than  
it ever been.

Ask more on par with His Devotion, the Devo of  
our Lord, Saviour Jesus Christ.

## "His Devotion!"

Scripture: John 6:22-40

Text: John 6:38,39,

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day."

When we think of the qualities that stand out in the life of Jesus we cannot help but be reminded of "His Devotion." The word devotion is so often used like many other words, to convey several things, and to have implied in its meaning, more than one meaning.

For instance we speak of a devoted son or daughter. What is usually meant by this is a person who is loving, is trustworthy, who is concerned, who cares very deeply about the parent and so on. In other words the one word devotion, contains many other attributes, rather than just one.

Jesus was a Son such as this. He showed His Devotion to His earthly father and mother by his love, his concern, his trustworthiness and by all of the other things that this devotion entailed. But he also showed His Devotion to His Father by completely subjecting His life to what the Father had for Him to do. Along with this He tried to show His Devotion, ~~by~~ to others by pointing them to the Father. In other words His Devotion was not only a real thing He lived, but it was something that He tried to instill in others by His verbal message. Let us look at this in the portion of Scripture we read this evening.

The people came to Jesus after the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus tells them very bluntly they came not because they wanted to see Him, but because they had seen a miracle performed with food. In other words they would gladly hang around until it was time to eat, in order to be fed in a like manner. They were not interested in Him so much, as they were in what He could do for them.

He told them He was ~~xxxx~~ sealed by God. By this He meant that God had placed His stamp upon Him. In ancient times, Kings, Governors, rulers, anyone who was an official in a certain way, had signet rings. With these



rings they would place a seal upon a document. It was done in this manner, the ~~xxxxxx~~ document was usually in ~~xxxxxx~~ the form of a scroll, and it was rolled up. Soft clay was placed at the edges to keep it closed. The signet ring of the king or ruler, was impressed into the soft clay, and thereby the seal of that official was placed for the receiver to see. This scroll then was set aside ~~xxxxxx~~ for the clay to harden, and when it was delivered, everyone could determine whether or not it had been tampered with. If the seal was unbroken, it was an ~~xxx~~ considered an official document.

In a class on Archaeology at Seminary, we went to the Museum in Philadelphia, and saw there the pottery, tools, utensils and things found at different biblical excavation sites. One thing that I found very interesting, was the signet rings from the different kings and rulers of those ancient times. I held in my hand a small clay tablet that was written by the Summerians over 4000 years ago, and was formed in much this manner.

Then the people asked Jesus what they needed to do to be doing the will of God? vs28.

Jesus answered, vs 29, Believe in him whom he has sent. In other words, they are to begin showing a devotion to God.

They then do as so many before had done, they ask for a sign from Him so they may believe. In ancient times the people were very sceptical. Perhaps no more sceptical than many people today, but always they wanted proof that they might have something concrete, something tangible that they could see with their own eyes and believe it. That told Jesus of the manna that their forefathers ate in the wilderness, and how this was a visible proof of the guidance of God.

But Jesus tells them that they need no further sign than He Himself. That He is the new bread that God has sent from heaven, and they can have life and be sustained from this bread for all eternity.

And here in verse 38 He spells it out as plainly as He ever explained anything else in scripture. He says, "For I have come down from heaven



not to do my ~~will~~ own will, but the will of Him who sent me."

He is telling them that he was completely devoted to the cause of His Father and that nothing was going to sway Him or deter Him from this task. He was saying that He was willing to place His life completely in the hands of God, and that His own will was not to be considered in way, shape, or form.

Now here we see the complete subjection of His will to that of His Father. It is difficult to understand this complete devotion. I think I can say that there has never been another person who walked on the face of this earth who was completely devoted to a cause more than Jesus. I am sure we can cite examples of men and women who have been dedicated to a certain goal, or a certain aim, and have sought after that goal or aim with complete devotion to that task. But never, has there lived a man or woman who has completely surrendered all of life to a total devotion of all ~~faculties~~ faculties, all possessions, all ambitions, all desires, all of everything to serving the cause, such as Jesus did.

Just think of what this would take to do this! It would require the complete subjection of all thoughts, all desires, all of the very things that ~~make~~ go into life, all of them wrapped up in one basic cause. Our minds cannot completely fathom what this would mean.

We have come here tonight in this last Wednesday during Holy week, to prepare ourselves to partake of the Lord's Supper tomorrow night. We are in a sense looking at our lives from a new perspective. We are striving to say in effect, "God, I am a sinner, I have sinned many sins in the past, and I am now trying to devote all my thoughts and all of my life, to prepare it to worthily partake of the Supper of the Lord's Body and Blood."

We are looking at our devotion and we are making the comparison between it and His Devotion. But when we make this comparison, can we not see that Our Devotion and His Devotion are far, far apart? Can we not

understand that like John the Baptist we are standing in the presence of one whose very shoes we are unworthy to lace? Does it not give us a sense of shame and guilt that there was one who loved us so much, even before we were ever born that He was willing to die for us? This was His Devotion. A devotion that can never be ours. But a devotion that God asks us to have in us in whatever measure we possibly can have.

Let us ask God's guidance and blessing in our lives to have ~~this~~ a devotion which is much stronger, much deeper ~~than~~ than it has ever been, and a devotion that is more on a par with His Devotion, the devotion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

TOMORROW - GOOD FRIDAY - A BREAKFAST FOR THE YOUTH - WILL BE FROM 8-10 AT LUTHER HALL, NEXT TO THE LIBRARY ON MCKEAN ST.



To say we must feed on xp, is ~~xxx~~ not say we must 2/  
eat his body & drink his blood  
means instead, we absorb his teach. take life inside  
selves **READ BACK OF TONITE BULLETIN**

Wm. Barclay compares to book on shelf  
As long as no read it remain outside,  
when read it become part us, in our minds, our  
hearts, & no longer outside us.

When Js say, abide in me, & I will abide in you, or  
eat my flesh and my blood, he saying, feed minds,  
hearts, souls on me

He telling live lives his words, live, relive his  
words, actions, deeds until we become drenched,  
permeated, saturated, filled with him, & life of God

Thus we see from His determin, to not only live as  
God wants us to live, but we should be completely  
filled & full of spirit that comes from God.

He saying, if we were to have same determin our lives  
we could live for God just as He.

Thus we should come Lord's table with strong determin  
to partake figuratively, metaphorically of body,  
blood of xp. & have it indwell us, renew us to go forth  
stronger, more determined disciples of J C

It, table we come to, not habit, or remain member  
good standing,

it table come as sinners need of forgiveness, of sin  
& renewal of minds in ingestion of bread & wine

To find new strength flowing thru bodies, because  
we're in closest contact, Lord & Saviour J C  
That we have found Him once again at His table,  
& we have eaten & drunk in His house.

Thus when hear words of Js, (Text),  
we hearing His Determination to share self with us  
Let us show our determination to be numbered among  
His peop, & to eat His table in new & renewed way  
tonite.

# "His Determination!"

Scripture: John 6:41-59  
Text: John 6:51,

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven;  
if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;  
and the bread which I shall give for the life of the  
world is my flesh."

Determination of Js very plainly evidenced portion  
scrip. read tonite

He expanding upon portion scrip read last nite  
Jn points out some Jews in opposition in this crowd  
they want question Js & statements

1st question He come down from heaven

They argue, "After all, did we not know your  
father Jos. and your mother Mary? How can u say  
u come down heaven?"

Js gives statement no comprehend,  
we say throw curve to them

He says, (Text)

& again they question meaning & purpose

This questioning & arguing not ceased that day to  
this.

If we read verse as other churches have we can  
readily see, verse leads to great controversy  
And it has done just that

It from verse that belief in transubstantiation has  
sprung.

Roman Cath. & Luther belief

What means, during consecration of elements, bread  
actually turns into body of Christ, wine into blood

Ulrich Zwingli disagreed with Luther this point, &  
broke off to form Reformed church

From vs & secretness of early xpians that pagans  
believed xpians indulged cannibalism, thus persecute

What Js really saying, spoken metamorphically & not  
literally

He saying, this secret real discipleship, xpian faith  
& living

When He say, I vine, he no mean He climbing tree.

We understand he making comparison, metaphor & we  
accept as such

"His Determination!"

Scripture: John 6:41-59

Text: John 6:51,

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The determination of Jesus is very plainly evidenced in the portion of scripture that we read this evening. What Jesus is really doing is simply expanding upon what he said in the portion of scripture that we read last night. John points out that there are some Jews in opposition in this crowd and they want to question Jesus on His statements.

First they question the validity of His statement that He has come down from heaven. They argue that after all, "did we not know your father Joseph and your mother Mary? How can you say that you have come down from heaven?"

But then Jesus gives them a statement ~~that~~ they cannot comprehend. We would say that he threw them a curve. He says, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." And again they question His meaning and purpose. But this questioning and arguing never has stopped from that day to this. If we read this verse as many others in the church have done we can readily see that this verse could lead to a great controversy. And it has done just that. It is from this verse that the Roman Catholic Church, and the Lutheran Church as founded by Martin Luther, holds the belief that during the <sup>consecration</sup> ~~institution~~ of the elements, at some unknown point, the bread and the wine miraculously turn into the real flesh and blood of Christ. Ulrich Zwingli one of the founders of the Reformed church disagreed with Luther on this one point and therefore founded the Reformed church apart from the Lutheran Church.

It was from this verse and from the secretness of the early Christian



Church worship service that the pagans believed the Christians indulged in cannibalism, and were thus persecuted.

But what Jesus was saying, was really being spoken metamorphically and not literally. He was really saying that here was the real meaning of ~~the~~ discipleship, and the secret of Christian faith and living. When He said he was the vine, we do not think that he literally is a vine growing up the side of a tree <sup>OR A BLOSSOM.</sup> We understand that he was speaking metaphorically, and when he uses one metaphor and we accept it as such, we should accept all metaphors in the same way. To say that we must feed on Christ is ~~not~~ to mean that we must actually eat his body or drink his blood, but it means to absorb his teachings, to take his life inside ~~ours~~ ours.

William Barclay compares it to a volume sitting on a shelf. Perhaps that volume may be a book by William Shakespeare. As long as the book sits on the shelf unread, it remains outside of us and is therefore external. But when the volume is taken from the shelf and read, and digested so to speak, it becomes a part of us, it is in our minds and on our hearts and is no longer outside of us. When Jesus told us to abide in Him and he would abide in us, or to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he was saying to feed our hearts and our souls and our minds on him. He was telling us to live our lives in his words, and to live and relive his deeds in everything that we do until we become drenched and permeated and ~~saturated~~ saturated and filled with Him, and the life of God.

Thus we can see from this His Determination to not only live just exactly as His Father wanted Him to live, but to have us completely filled and full of that same spirit that comes from God. He was saying that if ~~WE~~ WE were to have this same determination in our lives, we could live for God just as He.

Thus we <sup>should</sup> come to the Lord's table with a strong determination to partake figuratively and metaphorically of the body and blood of Christ,



and to have it renew us and indwell us to go forth as stronger, more determined disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a table that we come to, not thorough habit, or just to remain a member in good standing. But to come as sinners in need of forgiveness, and to find in the ingestion of the bread and wine, the forgiveness of our sins, and the renewal of our minds and our bodies. To find new strength flowing thorough our bodies, because we have been in the closest contact with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. That we have found Him once again at His table, and we have eaten and ~~supped~~ drunk with Him in His House.

Thus when we hear the words of Jesus, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I ~~give~~ shall give for the life of the world is my flesh," we are hearing His Determination to share Himself with us, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Let us show our determination to be numbered among His people and to eat at His table in a new and renewed way tonight. Let us pray.

## Order of Worship

(Please enter and leave the service only during the ushering intervals  
or while the congregation is singing the hymns)

### THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS

ORGAN PRELUDE ..... Mr. Daryl C. Kemerer

### 12:00—THE CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT ..... The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin  
CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Pastor, Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

INVOCATION ..... The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin

\*HYMN—"Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow"  
1. 'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow the star is dimmed that lately shone:  
'Tis midnight; in the garden now, the suffering Saviour prays alone.  
2. 'Tis midnight, and from all removed, the Saviour wrestles lone with fears:  
E'en that disciple whom He loved heeds not his Master's grief and tears.  
3. 'Tis midnight, and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know;  
Unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Saviour's woe. Amen.

### 12:05—THE WORD OF INTERCESSION

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

SCRIPTURE READING ..... Luke 23:32-38

SOLO ..... "He Shall Feed His Flock" ..... Handel  
Miss Molly Bussler

THE MEDITATION ..... The Rev. C. Kenneth Hall  
Pastor, The Hill United Presbyterian Church

### PRAYER

\*HYMN—"Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed"

1. Alas! and did my Saviour bleed, and did my Sovereign die!  
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?  
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
2. Was it for sins that I have done He suffered on the tree?  
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,  
When God, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin.
4. Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears:  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. Amen.

### 12:30—THE WORD OF SALVATION

"Today shall thou be with me in Paradise."

SCRIPTURE READING ..... Luke 23:39-43

DUET ..... "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears" ..... Graham  
Mrs. Penelope Kemerer and Mrs. Jean McClaren

THE MEDITATION ..... The Rev. Warren A. Bugbee  
Pastor, First United Methodist Church

### PRAYER

\*HYMN—"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

1. O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I in dust life's glory dead,  
From the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. Amen.

## 12:55—THE WORD OF REMEMBRANCE

"Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!"

SCRIPTURE READING ..... John 19:25-27

SOLO ..... "Forgive Us" ..... DuFault  
Miss Ruth Ann Quinlan

THE MEDITATION ..... The Rev. Francis A. Glenn  
Pastor, St. Paul's Catholic Church

### PRAYER

\*HYMN—"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand—  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noonday heat, and the burden of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess—  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross. Amen.

### 1:20—THE WORD OF LONELINESS

"My God, My God! Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

SCRIPTURE READING ..... Mark 15:33-34

SOLO ..... "He Touched Me" ..... Gaither  
Mr. Paul Reed

THE MEDITATION ..... The Rev. Reinhold K. Weber  
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

### PRAYER

\*HYMN—"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.  
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me: lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
4. None and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide. Amen.

### 1:45—THE WORD OF SUFFERING

"I thirst."

SCRIPTURE READING ..... John 19:28-29

SOLO ..... "He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word" ..... Traditional  
Mrs. Richard May

THE MEDITATION ..... The Rev. Calvin W. Ross  
Pastor, Oak Hills Christian Church

### PRAYER

\*HYMN—"Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound"

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now can see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. Amen.

In this light then, it unlikely Js reiterating what said previous occasion. 2/  
More likely cry It finished, cry victory, triumph  
that it signified end suffering part his life  
offering part being reality role in life Js  
had live

Dr. Herbert Simpson, preaching Westminster church London said this word, "It has been called with perfect justice, the most momentous word the world has ever heard."

And if we analyse word this way, we indeed see was not statement mere completion of task, but instead word of victory.

A shout of triumph for what taken place  
Announcement to world that "IT" finished  
"IT" being this instance, Divine plan Almighty God redeem mankind.

This plan was started garden Eden after man fallen from God trying be like God & do ~~own~~ thing.

From that moment on, God set in motion plan save His peop from sins

Js once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."  
This was what he was about now.

God's plan was operable in lives patriarchs, Abe, Isaac, Jacob,  
In motion in Moses, Joseph, Judges, the kings,  
In action in the major, minor prophets.

Al down history Israel God's covenant est. re-est for redemption of his peop.

As Js hung suspend heaven earth, he very readily view whole scene passing before tortured eyes, much like drowning man view life passing by.  
and as gaze stretched back several M yrs,  
he view all this as some ~~xxx~~ giant jig saw puzz,  
forming, shaping, day by day, yr by yr, cent by ce

All this piece by precious piece, put place by hand Al. God, His Father  
All of it for child. whom he loved, sought all these yrs.

All this been finished, Js aware purpose of God, been worked out his life.

Js had any misgivings, doubts about role he to play, was prob at this point of execution all came into full focus.

"The Word Of Victory"  
"It Is Finished"  
April 12, 1974

Text: John 19:30,

"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished;' and He bowed His head, and gave up the spirit."

Read: the text above,  
What was finished?  
What did He mean?

There are several things to consider about 6th word in order understand what being said by Js  
If look at life of any indiv, no matter who, we know life made up many things  
2 ingred any life, work, suffering  
each person ~~xxxx~~ has certain work thru life  
very perform this work entails certain amt suffer achieve it

Js no diff this respect  
we know he workerm spoke this often, he said,

"The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works ~~xxxx~~ that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me," and, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and also, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

Now from these quotes of Js, evident He had work & was about it.

So if he speak from standpoint of work he tried do in life, then 6th word simply imply his work ended.  
When he say It is Finished, he saying everything for which he labored had been accomplished  
These words could also implied terrible ordeal he undergone last few hours, also at end.

Could been triumphant shout he able leave behind executioners, tormentors, & humiliation he endured  
Could well be saying, "All you entrusted me been fulfilled. I completed work you sent me do."

But in 17th chap same Gospel John Js says, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."



Js surely must have known that in very short time 3/  
when gave spirit back hands Father,  
all prophecies of him,  
which preceeded him by so many yrs,  
all things he prophecied about take place.

Things such as; "I, if I be lifted up will draw all  
men unto me."

or, "God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoso-  
ever believeth in Him, should not  
perish but have everlasting life.  
For God sent His Son into the  
world, not to condemn the world,  
but that the world through Him  
might be saved."

When Js said, "It is Finished," he saying salvation  
been perfected.

The sins all mankind bought & paid for body, blood  
Js Christ.

Way now cleared for individ come Father thru Son  
No need offer sacrifice animals  
supreme sacrif been made

It is finished was CRY of JOW,  
Yes, JOY TO WORLD, LORD HAS COME!

Defeat been turned into VICTORY.

Even man's best effort at execu could not thwart  
God's plan of Salvation from being fulfilled.

"IT IS FINISHED," was cry of Jesus,  
IT WAS FINISHED INDEED,

And thanks be to God who giveth us the victory  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"The Word Of Victory"

"It Is Finished!"

April 12, 1974

Text: John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit."

"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit." What was finished? What did he really mean? There are several things that we need to consider about this sixth word in order to understand what was being said by Jesus. If we look at the life of any individual, no matter who it may be, we know that life is made up of many things. But two ingredients in any life are work and suffering. Each person has a certain work they perform through life, and the very performance of that work entails a certain amount of suffering to achieve it. Jesus was no different in this respect.

We know of him as a worker for He spoke of this often. He said, "The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." And, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and again, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." Now from these quotations of Jesus it is evident that He had a work and was about it.

So if He was speaking from the standpoint of the work that He tried to do in His life, then this sixth word would simply imply that His work was ended. When he said it is finished, he was saying that every thing for which he had labored had been accomplished. ~~xxxxxx~~ These words could also have implied that the terrible ordeal he had undergone in these last hours was also at an end. It could have been a triumphant shout that he was able to leave behind him, his executioners, his tormentors, and the humiliation he had endured. He could in essence have been saying, "All that you have entrusted to me has been fulfilled. I have completed the work you sent me to do." But in the 17th chapter of this same Gospel of

John, Jesus said, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." So in this light then, it is unlikely that Jesus was merely reiterating what he had said on a previous occasion.

It is more likely that the cry of "It is Finished," was a cry of triumph and of victory. That it signified the end of the suffering part of His life. ~~It said previously that we each have our work and suffering part~~  
~~to our lives~~ The suffering part being in reality the role in life that Jesus had to live. Dr. Herbert Simpson preaching in Westminster Church in London on this word said, "It has been called with perfect justice, the most momentous word the world has ever heard." And if we analyse the word in this way we can indeed see that it was not a statement of the mere completion of a task, but instead the word of victory. A shout of triumph for what had taken place. An announcement to the world that "IT" was finished.

"IT," being in this instance the Divine plan of Almighty God to redeem mankind. This plan that was started in the garden of eden after man had fallen from God in trying to be like God and do his own thing. From that moment on, God had set into motion a plan to save His people from their sins. Jesus once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work." This was what he was now about.

This plan was operable in the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was still in motion in the ~~prophets~~ judges and the kings. In the major and the minor prophets. All down through the history of Israel God's covenant was established and reestablished for the redemption of His people.

As Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth, he could very readily view this whole scene passing before his tortured eyes, much like ~~a drowning person~~ we are told a drowning person sees their life pass in review. And as his gaze stretched back over several thousand years, he could view all of this as some giant jig saw puzzle



forming and shaping, day by day, year by year, century by century. All this piece by precious piece put into place by the hand of Almighty God, His Father. All of it for the children ~~Max loved~~ whom He loved and sought all of these years. All of this had been finished, and Jesus was aware that God's purpose had been worked out in His life.

If He had any misgivings or doubts about the role He was to play, it was probably at this point in His execution that all of it came into full focus. He surely must have known that in a very short time, when he gave His spirit back into the hands of the Father, that all of the prophecies which preceeded Him by so many years, and all of the things the He Himself had prophecied were about to take place.

Things such as, "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me," Or, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

~~It is finished, a cry of joy, Yes, Joy to the world the Lord is come~~  
Salvation has now been perfected, the sins of all mankind have been bought with the body and blood of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ. ~~xxxxxx~~  
~~through this marked the~~ The way was now cleared for the individual to come to the Father through the Son. No more did he need to offer the sacrifices of animals, the supreme sacrifice had been made. It is finished was a ~~CRY~~  
of joy. Yes, Joy to the world, the Lord has come. ~~Thanks be to God who~~  
~~giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ~~ Defeat had been turned into victory. ~~xxxxxx his xxxxx his xxxxx his xxxxx~~ Even man's best efforts at execution could not thwart God's purpose from being fulfilled. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 14, 1974

THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR 8:00 AND 11:00 COMMUNION

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE RESURRECTION" JOHNSTON  
"CHRIST AROSE" WILSON

SILENT PRAYER

- \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 167 "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"
- \*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
- \*EXHORTATION
- \*CONFESSION - No. 1, Page 4
- \*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION, PASTOR)
- \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (CHORAL AMEN)
- \*PRAISE

\*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

- \*DOXOLOGY - No. 551

JUNIOR CHOIR: "ON WINGS OF LIVING LIGHT" BY R. C. WILSON

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 28: 1-10

CHANCEL CHOIR: "WHY WEEPEST THOU? HE IS RISEN!"

SOLO - VON MALONEY, MARILYN STEPHENSON - PIANO.

SERMON: "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

- \*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

- \*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR - THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE - AND WITH THY SPIRIT

\*PASTOR - LET US PRAY

- \*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "AT THE BREAK OF DAWN" MOORE

COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"

- \*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER \*INSTITUTION \*AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION - (8:00 SERVICE - USHERS WILL ESCORT  
YOU TO THE ALTAR

THE HOLY COMMUNION (11:00 SERVICE IN PEWS -

PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE WITH PASTOR)

- \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN
- \*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 165 "THE DAY OF RESURRECTION"
- \*BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN
- ORGAN POSTLUDE "ALLELULIA! ALLELULIA!"

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION,  
TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.  
PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S  
RECORDS ARE ACCURATE. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN THE  
RECEPTACLE ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS.

IF VISITORS WILL PUT EITHER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF  
THEIR CHURCH, OR THEIR PASTOR ON THE BACK OF THE  
COMMUNION CARD, IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL SERVE AS USHERS TODAY.  
ELDER AND MRS. PAUL CAMPBELL WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND MISS KAREN KENNEDY WILL BE IN  
NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON - BOMH;

MR. GEORGE B. EICHORN - ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. GUY E. WILES ON  
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. THEY WERE MARRIED  
APRIL 16, 1924 BY REV. O. T. MOYER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST (REFORMED) OF SUGAR CREEK TWP.  
ARMSTRONG CO. MRS. WILES HAS BEEN A PATIENT AT  
SUNNYVIEW HOSPITAL SINCE AUGUST 1973.

\*\*\*\*\*

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS A SHUT-IN PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PASTOR.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE

THURSDAY - 10:00 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE WILL MEET  
AT THE CHURCH FOR REHERSAL.

THURS. - 7:00 - BUTLER COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING -  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 318

WE WELCOME ALL THOSE WHO VISIT WITH US TODAY IN THE  
NAME OF THE RISEN LORD. WE HOPE YOU WILL SIGN OUR  
GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE NAVE.

SUNRISE SERVICE - EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 3, 1994 - 7:00 A.M.  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHVRCH - SAGAMORE, PA.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAKFAST AFTER SERVIE THIS MORNING, NO CHARGE - FREE-WILL  
OFFERING IF CARE TO CONTRIBUTE  
CHURCH SERVICE AT 9:30 FOLLOWING BREAKFAST  
THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 9:30 SERVICE

ASCRPTION

CALL TO WORSHIP:

NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE FIRST  
FRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT.  
THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY  
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

\*HYMN

OFFERING/PRAYER

\*DOXOLOGY

MORNING PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 28:1-10

SERMON: "HAPPY NEW YEAR" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 4/14/74

\*HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

SCRIP: MT 28:1-10; SRM: "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

(ILWS CM OF HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERN & EASTER EVE & AWAIT EASTER DAWN)

SIMLAR PCWSTOM OF AWAIT NEW YRS DAY

THIS 1ST DAY NW BEGINS & LET ME B 1ST WISH W-HAPPY NEW YEAR

TH'S DAY LONG AWAIT IN HISTRY & SPECILY IN LIF JS XP

S CULMINATIN OF BLVD/SWMT/TEAR OUR SAVIOR JS XP

ME LNRHOLD CAPTIV IN TOMB-HE ALIV-HE IS RISEN

(ILWS MOSEEM & XPIAN MISSINARY ABOUT TOMES)

VS 1-THINK IMPACT UPON TH/LIYS THEZ WOMN

HAV W EVR WATCHD THRU TH/ERLY MORN HRS & AWAIT ARIVL OF DAWN???

(ILWS STAND GARD KOREA -TH/LAND OF TH/MORNING CALM)

THEZ WOMN LITRLY/FIGURATIVLY SAW DAWN OF NW DAY

VSS 2-4-THINK IMPACT ON THEM, TH/SHOK, AMAZMENT

ANY FEARS THEY HAD WER QUICKLY PUT PREST BY ANGLS WORDS

VSS 5-7-THINK OF THIS TERIFIC NEWS THEY WER HEARING

NOW WUD IT AFFECT W?? JOY, WNSPKABL JOY

VS 8-I LIK HOW MT SAYS IT-"DEPARTED QUICKLY"

HE SAYS IT CORECTLY AT END OF VERSA-WAND DID RUN"

BUT WHAT HAPPN AS GO PTEL DISCIPS???

VS 9-TH/DAY NOW DAWNED THAT MUCH BRITR 4THEM

THEY CAM 2TOMB W/SADNES/DESPAIR & NOW GLWM TRVN 2JOY

(ILWS MINISTER WHO "LITES UP TH/BURIAL SERVICE")

THIS IS WAT EASTER STORY SHUD DO 4EACH OF US

IT IS A DAY OF JOY OF NW BIRTH, OF HAV TREASVR WORL WANDTUDPLICAT

(ILWS OLD SOFA & TH/UNKNOWN VALUE OF IT)

THIS WAS JS

AN OLD/WORTHLES JEWISH TEACHER BIN DISPOD OF

HE WAS PUT 2DETH, BURIED & OUT OF HARM'S WAY

TH/RELIG LDERS & OTHERS WANT HIM OUT OF WAY BREATH SIGH RELIEF

THIS BLASHEMR WAS GON, & DISCIPS/FOLLOWRS HAD DISAPPEARD

TALK OF NW ORDR, BILD TEMPL 3DAYS ETC WAS JWS TALK, TALK, TALK

LD'S DED, & HIS TALK JWS BUNCH DREAMS/MEMRIES IN TH/PAST

IT FEL SIGNIF OF ALL THIS IS THAT JS RESVR MENT POSIBL THAT

HER IS A RESURECTIN & LIF BYON THIS ONE

4ALL BLIEVRS THIS SHUDS SORC JOY & THANKSGIV

IT SHUD PT US 2WAT AWAIT US AT CLOS THIS LIF

(ILWS MISSIONARY, FAMILT IN PORTUGAL & "ALL SAFELY HOME")

WAT A CAWS 4CELEBRATIN

JS MADE POSIB 2CROS FR/DARKNES 2DAWN

FR/DETH 2LIF, FR/OLD 2NEW

SO SHUDE "HAPPY NEW YEAR" THIS EASTER & EVRY EASTER

JS XP IS RISEN 2DAY, ALLELUIA & AMEN!!!



(Illust. of Minister Jowett)

This Easter should do for all us.  
Should create new, glorious dawning.

Who God perform miracle of resur, beg. of NEW Year  
for many

New Year for all in Christ  
Day new life, new birth

(Illus. janitor & sofa)

Thus was with Jesus.  
Old worthless Jewish teacher disposed of  
Body laid tomb for intents & purposes dead as any  
People wanted minis. end, breath sigh relief  
Relig. leaders elated, blasphemers gone  
Disciples & followers gone, disappeared,  
hopes of new order gone, dashed pieces  
talk of tearing temple down, just talk  
leader as fallible as they  
Now dead buried, ministry just dreams & memories

But Jesus predicted this  
stone rejected now head of corner.  
Old worthless body gone, but replaced with new  
glorious Risen SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Fall signif. of Easter, JESUS Conquered DEATH &  
grave, and thru Him have eternal life.

Should be for each Xpian cause of JOY, celebration,  
thanksgiving.

Something can anticipate at close earthly life.

(Illust. Safely home)

Wait a cause for celebration.

Jesus made possible for man to cross darkness to  
Dawn.  
from death to life,  
from old to new.

Happy New Year this Easter and every Easter.

Happy New Year all of you.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA AND AMEN.

# "Happy New Year!"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Text: Matthew 28:1a,

"Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first  
day of the week,"

Today Easter Sunday.

*H.V. Minton - IN HIS STEPS*

(Illustration Church of Holy Sepulchre)

This resembles very much our custom New Years EVE.

Today is day of new beg. let me be first to wish

Happy New Year.

Day we all awaited, day looked forward since

Ash Wed.

Culmination of blood, sweat, tears of Jesus.

Today He has arisen, no longer captive in tomb

ALIVE.

(Illustration Moslem & Xpian.)

Think of impact this resur. made on followers.

Read in scripture, (text)

Have ever watched thru early morn, hours, await dawn?

Korea, and Land of Morning Calm.

Blackness of night give way beautiful light of dawn.

More breathtaking than could describe.

This took place for these women.

*PAUING OF NEW DAY LITENING & FIGURATIVELY.*  
Early hours for women, moments of grief, sorrow.

Could ease sorrow by coming tomb.

Matt says, came to see sepulchre.

We can well imagine utter amaze, at earthq, stone  
rolled, & angel.  
not prepared for this surprise.

Shock of empty tomb, & angel telling no fear,  
but fear normal.

fear Jesus stolen, carried elsewhere.

But JOY over news HE ALIVE, FOREVERMORE

This made day dawn brighter.

Once darkness, despair, gloom, sadness, grief,

now lightness, brightness nothing could match

Now could leave empty tomb & tell discip & d. ar

But met by Jesus Himself. Here was proof.

PR 121  
Sermon #2  
December 11, 1973  
Ralph C. Link

"Happy New Year!"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Text: Matthew 28:1a, "Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week," R.S.V.

Today is Easter Sunday. Yesterday, all day, and all night people were gathering in the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. They have been doing this for over nine centuries. These people have been taking part in what is called the "Ceremony of the Holy Fire." H. V. Morton tells of this in his book entitled "In His Steps." Hundreds of people sleep in the church. Thousands more wait outside all night for the supreme moment of the morning to come when the fire shall appear. They push and shove for places that will place them in a position to get their candles touched by the holy fire. The police are called in to preserve order, but to little or no avail.

On each side of the tomb are round openings rimmed with stone, blackened by the fire of other years. Runners stand around holding bunches of candles. The Greek and Armenian patriarchs take their places at the openings, each with a torch. Suddenly in the darkness a burst of flame appears and the torches are ablaze. There is a mad rush of shrieking candle holders as they push forward to light their candles. All pandemonium breaks loose. Out of the tomb they rush with the lit candles, and into their vehicles to drive to their churches and to place the candles in those churches. The church bells peal out their joyous notes on the early morning dawn air, while added to this is the strange noise of wooden gongs that are beaten with strips of metal.

This resembles very much our custom of watching and awaiting the



the arrival of the New Year. Each December 31st thousands of people sit in front of their TV sets viewing Guy Lombardo and his orchestra playing dance music, while people dance and await the New Year. Quite frequently, the scene changes and shows the time remaining until midnight. At a few minutes to midnight the scene in Times Square New York City is shown and at exactly midnight the ball drops to the bottom of the tower and all pandemonium breaks loose with people shouting, and whistling, screaming, embracing, and wishing one another a Happy New Year, to the accompaniment of horns and noise makers.

Well, today is a day of new beginnings and so let me be the first to wish all of you a Happy New Year. This is the day we have all awaited. This is the day to which we have looked ever since Ash Wednesday marked the start of Lent. This is the culmination of the blood, and sweat, and tears of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Today, He has arisen. He is no longer held captive in the tomb, but is alive.

A Moslem once remarked to a Christian missionary, "We have proof of the death of our prophet. When we go to Arabia we can find his tomb and thus show that he really lived. When you go to Jerusalem you cannot prove that he lived for you have no tomb." "True," replied the missionary, "We have no tomb in our religion because we have no corpse. Our Gospel ends not in a corpse, but in a conqueror."

Think of the impact this resurrection made upon the followers of Jesus. We read in our scripture how Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, "after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week." Have you ever watched through the early morning hours and awaited the arrival of dawn? While I was in Korea very appropriately named "The Land of the Morning Calm," I stood guard many nights at the front lines, and watched the blackness of night give way to the beautiful light of dawn. To watch the sky slowly and gradually become light, and to see the first light of day is more breathtaking than I could ever possibly describe. This is literally what took place for these



two women. They saw the dawning of a new day, literally and figuratively. The early morning hours were for these women, moments of grief and sorrow. But they were hours in which they could at least strive to ease their grief, by going to the tomb and seeing where their beloved was entombed. Matthew tells us they went to see the sepulchre. We can well imagine their utter amazement at the events that took place, what with the earthquake and the stone being rolled away, and the angel to greet them. But it becomes all but impossible to imagine the surprise they must have felt when they first viewed the empty tomb. They certainly were not prepared for this shock. So it isn't too hard to understand why the angel told them not to be afraid, for fear was probably the first thing they experienced. A fear that the body of their beloved Jesus had been stolen, or carried elsewhere. But just imagine their joy as they are told the glorious news that He has arisen is now alive, forevermore.

This made that day dawn just that much brighter for them. What was once darkness, sadness, grief and despair, had now turned to a lightness and brightness that nothing could ever match. What made it all the more bright was for them to leave the empty tomb to tell the disciples of their discovery and to be met by none other than Jesus Himself. This not only made it believable, but here was the proof.

A minister named John Henry Jowett once told of a fellow minister when he said, "I know a man who always lights up the burial service by the wonderful way in which he reads the resurrection chapter in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. While he reads you can see and feel the morning dawning, even though you are in the house of the dead."

This is what the Easter story should do for all of us. It should create the new and glorious dawning. When God performed the miracle of resurrection, it was the beginning of a New Year for many. It is a New Year for all those who are in Christ. It is a day of



new life, of new birth.

A janitor was cleaning a church basement. He had hauled away load after load of old paint cans, and boxes, stones, scrap lumber and rubbish. He would have hauled out the old sofa that he found there, but it was too bulky and heavy to handle alone. So he pulled it over against one wall, and piled bags of leftover plaster, cement and sand on it. One day one of the ladies of the church came to the church and went to the basement to get something. She noticed that the basement was now nice and clean and during her inspection, she saw the old sofa sitting against the wall. She inquired of the janitor as to the ownership of it. He told her as far as he knew it belonged to the church. She replied that she would like to buy it. Scornfully he asked, "Yea, and just how much will you give for that old piece of junk?" She answered, "I'll give \$400 for it, because it just happens to be a French Chippendale." The janitor uncertain as to what he should do, told her he would check into it. He went to the pastor and told him. A furniture dealer was called in and after examining the sofa, told them it was worth some money. An auction was held and the sofa was sold for \$1000.

Thus it was with Jesus. The old worthless Jewish teacher had been disposed of. His body was laid in the tomb and for all intents and purposes he was just as dead as anyone else. The people who had wanted his ministry ended could now breathe a sigh of relief. The religious leaders were probably elated, because now this blasphemer was gone. His followers and disciples had all disappeared. Their hopes of being a part of the new order were dashed to pieces. All of that talk about tearing down the temple and rebuilding it in three days, had been just that, talk. Their leader had proven to be just as fallible as they. He was now dead and buried and his ministry was just a bunch of dreams and memories in the past.

But what no one considered was the fact that Jesus himself had predicted this. He had foretold that the stone which the builders would reject, would become the head of the corner. That old worthless body was gone, and it had been replaced with the new and glorious risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

The full significance of Easter is that Jesus conquered death and the grave and through Him we may have eternal life; it should be

for each Christian a cause for joy and thanksgiving now, and something which we can anticipate at the close of this earthly life.

During World War II things became so bad in many areas that many times people were evacuated for their own safety. In Portugal a missionary was advised to send his family back to England for their safety. So one morning he saw his wife and his eight children, as well as his sister and her three children loaded aboard an ocean liner, bound for England. He remained behind. On the Sunday following their departure he stood before his congregation and announced, "I've just received word that all my family have arrived safely home." He then led the service of worship. It was only after the service was over that the full meaning of the words became known to his people. He had received a telegram just before the start of the service, informing him that a submarine had torpedoed the ship and everyone on board had died. But he knew that all of his family were believers, and they had reached home safely. And although overcome with grief at the loss, he was able to continue through the grace of God, knowing that his loved ones were enjoying eternity, through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What a cause for celebration. Jesus made it possible for man to cross from darkness to dawn; from death to life; from the old to the new. It should be "HAPPY NEW YEAR" this Easter and every Easter. "Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia" and Amen.



Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and  
hath given himself for us, an offering and a  
sacrifice to God, for a sweet smelling savour."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER APRIL 21, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "SYMPHONIC PRELUDE" SALONIE  
"SUNRISE" NORDMAN

SILENT PRAYER  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 80 "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
\*EXHORTATION  
\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, GRACIOUS AND LONG-SUFFERING,  
WHO DELIGHTEST IN MERCY AND WILLS THAT ALL SHOULD RETURN  
UNTO THEE AND LIVE; PARDON, WE BESEECH YOU, OUR MANY SLACK  
AND EMPTY HOURS, OUR DISTRUST OF YOU, OUR IMPATIENCE UNDER  
YOUR REBUKES, THE EVIL WE HAVE DONE, THE GOOD WE HAVE LEFT  
UNDONE, AND ALL THE MANIFOLD TRANSGRESSIONS OF WHICH OUR  
CONSCIENCES ARE AFRAID, AND GRANT US GRACE TO LIVE HENCE-  
FORWARD IN CHARITY, OBEDIENCE AND DEVOUT SUBMISSION TO  
YOUR WILL; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."  
\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.  
\*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 20: 19-29  
HYMN No. 239 "ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW"  
\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (STATEMENT OF FAITH)  
\*GLORIA PATRI  
\*CALL TO PRAYER  
\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE  
OFFERING  
OFFERTORY "SPRING FLOWERS" HAINER  
DUTE: "FRODOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND" DORSEY DUTCH & HOWDY  
BOLAM

SERMON: "WITHOUT A DOUBT!"  
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 243 "MAKE ME A CAPTIVE, LORD"  
\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" HEYSER  
- - - - \*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MR. & MRS. GEORGE PFLUGH IN MEMORY OF THEIR DAUGHTER  
PAMELA.  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*DON KINGSLEY, DARYL  
TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.  
MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT  
THE DOOR TODAY.  
NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. PEG COVERT AND  
PAULA STEPHENSON.

LAST SUNDAY WE HAD A TOTAL OF 381.  
HOSPITALIZED: GEORGE EICHORN - ALLEGHENY GEN. HOSP. 1.27  
TUESDAY - 7:30 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - *Charles Neo.*  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS - WORK NIGHT AT THE  
APARTMENT 110 WALKER AVE. THERE IS A LOT OF PAINT-  
ING TO BE DONE - WE NEED YOUR HELP - MEN AND WOMEN.  
SATURDAY - 8-9 - YOUTH SWIM PARTY - YMCA. REFRESH-  
MENTS WILL BE AT THE DON KENNEDY RESIDENCE. THE  
YOUTH CAN BE PICKED UP AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30.  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WILL BE OBSERVED - APRIL 30 -  
TUESDAY IN OUR CHURCH.

MR. & MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE  
MEMBERS FOR CARDS, PRAYERS, VISITS, AND FOR REV.  
LINK'S VISITS AND PRAYERS. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE  
TO THANK THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR COOKIES AND  
JELLY BEANS. ---FROM THE CUSTEAD WITH LOVE ---

A LIFE THAT IS FULL IS A LIFE THAT IS CHANGED.  
THOSE WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE RISEN CHRIST LEAD LIVES  
THAT ARE EMPTY. THEY LACK THE POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT,  
THE JOY OF HIS PRESENCE.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THEREFORE, IS NOT A  
MERE HISTORICAL RECORD. IT IS THE VERY DYNAMIC OF GOD,  
THE POWER THAT TRANSFORMS OUR LIFE, THAT MAKES IT CONFORM  
MORE CLOSELY TO HIS. EASTER MEANS THAT WE NOW HAVE  
LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS. AID ASSOC.

Sunday, April 5, 1970

Mr. Ralph Link, Lay Minister

Prelude

Lighting the Candles of Worship

\*Hymn No. 80

\*Invocation and Choral Introit

\*Prayer of Confession - Our Heavenly Father, who by Your love made me, and through Your love have kept me, and in Your love would make me perfect, I humbly confess that I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and that I have not loved my neighbor as Christ loved me. Your life is within my soul but my selfishness has hindered You. I have not lived by faith. I have resisted Your spirit. I have neglected Your inspirations. Forgive what I have been; help me to amend what I am; and in Your Spirit direct what I should be; that You may come into the full glory of Your creation, in me and in all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*The Kyrie

\*The Assurance of Pardon

\*The Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading Sel. 34, Page 584

Hymn No. 239

The Scripture Lesson - John 20:19-29

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Offertory

\*Doxology and Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

The Anthem "Scatter Sunshine" The Junior Choir

The Sermon "Without a Doubt"

\*Hymn No. 176

\*Benediction and Choral Response

\*Postlude

\*Indicates that we stand

Greeters

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Beck

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon at 2:00 - Consistory Meeting

Wednesday evening at 6:30 - Junior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 7:15 - Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 8:00 - Double G Class Meeting

Thursday evening at 8:00 - Washington Township

Committee will meet in the home of Mrs. Wilmer Meinel.

Friday, April 10 - The Vacation Bible School workshop will be held with two sessions at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All staff members and teachers are asked to contact Faye Cox about attending.

Sunday, April 12 - If present schedules are maintained, Rev. Kettering will be in our pulpit for his first sermon as minister at First Church.

Mrs. Curt (Bessie) Hill wishes to thank everyone for cards, flowers and prayers extended on her behalf. Bessie is recuperating at home. Gary Lukehart continues to make progress and is still a hospital patient. Dora DeVilling underwent surgery last Monday in Citizens Hospital and is recovering nicely. John Dowley, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dowley, was able to spend Easter at home after having been hospitalized.

The rosebuds on the altar announce the arrival of two baby girls, the one born to Mr. and Mrs. Preston (Linda Barker) Smith, and the other, Judith Lynn, born to S/Sgt. and Mrs. William Frampton.

The Double G Class will hold a cooking demonstration at the West Penn Power Building in Washington Township on April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Donations are fifty cents per person and tickets may be obtained from class members.

Just so happen Thos carp by trade  
 While Abbanes in mkt place, Js came up said,  
 "Wouldst thou buy a carpenter?"  
 Abbanes say, "Yes."  
 Js say; "I have slave that carp, I desire sell."  
 At this he point Thos in distance.  
 They agree price & Thos sold  
 agreement read; "I Js, son of Jos carp, acknowledge  
 I have sold my slave Thos by name unto thee Abbanes  
 a merchant of Gundaphorus, king of the Indians."  
 After deed drawn up, Js take Thos to Abbanes Thos.  
 Abbanes ask Thos, "Is this your master?"  
 Thos reply, "Indeed he is."  
 Abbanes tell him, "I have bot you from him."  
 Thos no reply.  
 But in morn he rise early, pray  
 after prayer he say Js, "I will go whither thou  
 wilt Lord Js; thy will be done."  
 Story then go on tell How Gundaphorus command Thos  
 bild palace & Thos told him he can do  
 King gave Thos all money needed by materials, &  
 hire workmen.  
 But Thos give all away to poor  
 He keep telling king, "Palace rising steadily."  
 But king grow suspicious.  
 finally sends Thos, asks, "Hast thou bilt me palac  
 Thos answer, "Yes."  
 When shall we go see, asks king?  
 Thos answers; "Thou canst not see it now, but when  
 thou departest this life, then thou shalt see it."  
 King angry, Thos life endangered,  
 but finally king won over xpianity, this how Thos  
 brought xpianity to India.  
 two things stand out life Thos  
 1st, he actually refuse believe that which cannot  
 see. Would not trust, in this respect absolutely  
 honest.  
 Thos not kind man blindly tell of faith & no belie  
 Tennyson wrote; "There lives more faith in honest  
 doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds."  
 (Illustration Baptist Fish)  
 This true all denom.  
 Easter, Xmas good examp this  
 full church, many come, & no idea what they belie  
 Oh, have some vague notion Js,  
 but ends there.

"Without A Doubt!"

Text: John 20:24-29

In world & nation make use word doubt often  
 In merchandizing, whether car, washer, appliance  
 anything else, without doubt, best on market  
 Jury told "if resonable doubt, then acquit"  
 People show doubt in belief of all kinds  
 Thomas in Scripture could very well say, "I doubt  
 certainly very sceptical  
 we call doubting Thomas,  
 this respect we show feelings toward doubters  
 Thomas may been doubter, or sceptic, but very loyal  
 Loved Js, disc.  
 reason thot not with other discs, grief stricken  
 no want others see this  
 since loved Js so much, made statement, would no  
 believe until he saw for self  
 When saw, made complete acceptance, "My Lord,  
 and My God."  
 Latter life Thos not really known.  
 book supposedly life of Thos called, "Acts Of Thos  
 Only legendary story,  
 but true to character as far as Thos concerned  
 Story like this:  
 After death Js, discs divide up world among them  
 Each took section known world preach spred Gospel  
 India fell Thos by lot.  
 Some truth here, cause Thomist church South India,  
 trace origin Thos  
 At 1st Thos refuse go, said,  
 "I am an Hebrew man; how can I go among the indians  
 and preach the truth?"  
 Js appeared nite, said; "Thos, fear not, go thou int  
 India & preach the word there for my grace is with  
 thee."  
 But Thos stubbornly refuse, said;  
 "Master, whither thou sendest me I will go, send me  
 but send me elsewhere, for unto the Indians I will  
 not go."  
 Just so happened certain merchant came from India  
 o Jerusalem.  
 His name Abbanes  
 Was sent by King Gundaphorus find skilled carp  
 bring back India



So easy stand before cong, say few I Do's, 3/  
& then you a Xpian  
almost as easy as getting married.  
We have mixed up Churchianity for Christianity.  
We been reaping benfits for many yrs, with empty  
pews & half committed peop  
ve long list peop on roles, but not there cause  
no commitment to Js Christ.  
Relig not taken seriously  
We should have Thos doubt.  
we should question all of relig from Apost creed<sup>om</sup>  
We should question about Bible.  
So easy say, "Well, I accept B. as inspired  
word of God," but what does that mean to you?  
But should find out what we believe,  
find out who wrote, when how written, what about  
(Illustration Bible for present) et  
We may never receive a gift copy compliments of  
author, but we should know His word.  
Nother point Thos, way he made up mind.  
Once sure, he went all way.  
He say Js, "My Lord, and My God."  
nothing ½ here.  
He go all way  
This we need today, more dedicated men & women.  
More peop on fire for Lord,  
& not just in pulpits either  
Too many lukewarm xpians  
Only time many give Allegiance God, when need help  
Many only need help, hatched, matched, dispatched  
Bapt, marry, bury.  
Too many only need church when problems or trouble  
To have doubts human  
we all have them.  
I know sceptic asks show me risen Lord?  
Cannot actually prove this, nor more prove air  
We know air all round us, cannot see it, but there  
So impossible prove resurrection Js.  
We must accept as Thos, "My Lord & My God."  
Js summed up to Thos, "You believe because you can  
see me. Happy are those who have not seen & yet  
believe."  
We no see as Thos, yet we profess belief.  
We should show acceptance Withou A Doubt, & live it

## Without A Doubt

Text: John 20; 24-29

In the world today and in our nation we make use of the word doubt quite often. In merchandising we say, "This product, whether it be a car appliance or anything else, is without a doubt the best on the market." In jury trials, the jury is often instructed that if they have a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of an individual, then it is their duty to acquit him. People often use the phrase, "I'm from Missouri, you'll have to show me," when they are sceptical about something. Well the man in our Scripture this morning could very well have uttered this phrase, because he was certainly very sceptical. And don't we often refer to a person sometimes as a, "Doubting Thomas?" In this respect we show what our feelings are toward a doubter.

Thomas may have been a doubter, or a pessimist as we would call him, but he was also a loyal disciple. He loved Jesus and it is thought that the reason why he was not with the other disciples, was due to the fact that he did not want anyone to see how grief stricken he was over the death of Jesus, so he went into seclusion. And since he loved Jesus so much he made the statement that he would not believe it was Jesus unless he actually saw the nail prints and touched them and saw the wound in Jesus side. And when he was convinced that it really was Jesus he made the complete acceptance of his Saviour by stating, "My Lord and my God."

The later life of Thomas is not really known. But there is a book that is supposedly the history of Thomas. It is called, "The Acts of Thomas." It is only a legendary story, but it certainly is true to character as far as Thomas is concerned. ~~After the death of Jesus~~ The story goes like this, "After the death of Jesus, the disciples divided the world up among them. That is they each took a certain section of the known world to preach in and to spread the Gospel. India fell to Thomas by lot. There is some truth here since the Thomist Church South India can trace its origin to Thomas. At first Thomas refused to go. He used the excuse that he was not strong enough for the journey. He said, "I am an Hebrew man; how can I go among the Indians and preach the truth?" But Jesus appeared to him at night and said, "Fear not Thomas, go thou into India and preach



the word there, for my grace is with thee." But Thomas very stubbornly refused. He said to Jesus, "Whither thou wouldst send me, send me, but elsewhere for unto the Indians I will not go."

Now it just so happened that a certain merchant came from India to Jerusalem. He was named Abbanes. He had been sent by King Gundaphorus to find a skilled carpenter and to bring him back to India. And it just so happened that Thomas was a carpenter by trade. While Abbanes was in the market place, Jesus came up to him and said, "Wouldest thou buy a carpenter?" Abbanes replied, "Yes." Then Jesus said, "I have a slave that is a carpenter, and I desire to sell him," at this He pointed to Thomas in the distance. So they agreed on a price and Thomas was sold. The agreement they had between them read, "I, Jesus, the son of Joseph the carpenter, acknowledge that I have sold my slave Thomas by name unto thee Abbanes, a merchant of Gundaphorus, king of the Indians." After the deed was drawn up Jesus found Thomas and took him to Abbanes. Abbanes asked Thomas, "Is this your master?" And Thomas replied, "Indeed he is." Abbanes told him, "I have bought thee from him." Thomas said nothing. But in the morning he rose early and prayed. After his prayer he said to Jesus, "I will go whither thou wilt Lord Jesus; thy will be done."

The story then goes on to tell how Gundaphorus commanded Thomas to build a palace and Thomas told him that he was able to do so. The king gave Thomas all the money that he needed to buy the materials and hire the workmen. But Thomas gave it all away to the poor. He would keep telling the king that the palace was rising steadily. But the king grew suspicious. Finally he sent for Thomas. And he asked, "Hast thou built me the palace." And Thomas answered, "Yes." When then shall we go and see it," asked the king? Thomas replied, "Thou canst not see it now, but when thou departest this life, then thou shalt see it." At first the king was very angry and Thomas was in danger of his life. But finally the king was won over to Christianity and this is how Thomas brought Christianity to India.

There are two things that stand out in the life of Thomas. The first thing is the fact that he absolutely refused to say that he believed, when indeed he did not. In this respect he was absolutely honest. Thomas had to be sure.



Thomas was not the kind of man who would blindly tell of his faith and not believe in it. Tennyson wrote, "There lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds."

There is a story told of a Baptist minister who was strolling along the sea walk during a convention of his members in Charleston. He happened to meet an old colored man fishing. For a long time he watched the man sit very patiently waiting for a bite. Finally he got a bite and hooked the fish and pulled him in. It was an odd looking fish and the minister asked what kind it was. The man replied that it was called a Baptist fish. "A Baptist fish the minister asked," rather sceptically. "Sure," said the man, "They call them that because they spoil so fast after they are taken out of the water." Now this is true of all denominations. <sup>EASTER EX. FULL CHURCHES</sup> Many people come into them, but they have no ~~idea~~ <sup>IN</sup> idea ~~in~~ what ~~believe~~. <sup>EX. OF HIM</sup> it is they believe. Oh, they have a vague notion about Jesus, but that's about where it ends. It is so easy to stand before the rest of the congregation, and say a few, "I do's" and then you are a Christian. It's almost as easy as getting married. I think that in many respects the churches that require a period of classes for prospective members have a good idea. I think that because we have made Christianity so easily obtained, we are reaping it with the empty churches and a long list of people on the rolls who should be there. <sup>BUT AREN'T</sup> Religion is not taken as seriously as it should be. We should have a certain amount of Thomas's doubt. This questioning should involve all facets of our religion from the meaning of the Apostles Creed to the structure of the Bible. It is so easy to repeat the Creed and never really know what it means. And it is so easy to say, "Well, I accept the Bible as the inspired word of God." And let it go at that. But what we should do is to try to find out just what it is that the Creed means. And we should dig into the Bible to see who wrote it and how it was written and the <sup>8 WHAT IT SAYS TO ME IN MY LIFE OF CHURCH</sup> circumstances under which it was written. <sup>ANOTHER ABOUT</sup> This would help not only to make more dedicated Christians, but people who were well versed in their religion and who could take it seriously enough to be a real active Christian.

The second point of Thomas, was the fact that once he made up his mind, or when he was sure, he went all the way. He answered Jesus, "My Lord and

my God." He was sure and with this surety he was willing to go all the way. He did not stop half way and just say, "My Lord." No he had to give all of the title to Jesus. This is another thing we need in our religion today. More dedicated men and women. And I don't <sup>just</sup> mean <sup>just</sup> behind the pulpit either. Too many of our church people are luke warm Christians. The only time they really give the allegiance to their Saviour is when they are in need of help. A minister friend of mine once told me that the people who demand the most as far as religious services are concerned, are the ones who never darken the doorway of the church. But just let one of their loved ones die or become ill, and they expect the minister to be right on the job at their beck and call. To be halfway in our religion is ~~is~~ almost as bad as having no religion at all. We need to live it as well as confess it.

To have doubts as Thomas did is human. All of us have them from time to time. But when it comes to our Christianity we can have no doubts. Oh, I know that the sceptical ask for proof of Jesus as the Risen Lord. But to try to prove this is almost as difficult as trying to prove that there is such a thing as air. We know that it is all around us, but we can't see it. But does this mean it does not exist? Of course not, so it is just as impossible to prove the Resurrection of Jesus. We must accept it by faith. We must accept Him as our Lord And our God, <sup>As,</sup> by faith ~~also~~. This is perhaps a difficult thing for some Christians to do, especially if they are of a doubting nature. But Jesus summed it up when He said to Thomas, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." We have not seen Jesus as the disciples and Thomas did, and yet we profess to believe. We have accepted Jesus as our Lord and our God, and so we should show this acceptance by not being doubtful about our Christianity. We should ~~live without any doubt~~ live the Christian life, and believe in our Saviour without any doubts at all. Then when we profess our faith, we can truly say, "I believe in Jesus Christ without a doubt." Let us pray.



The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord:  
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is  
cc 1y ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST for the upright.

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER APRIL 28, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE PASTORALE, IN A" SPENCE  
"PRELUDE SERIEUSE" STRICKLAND

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 177 "SING WITH ALL THE SONS OF GLORY"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US  
WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED  
AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DIS-  
OBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS  
AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT  
WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH  
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PRADON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3: 7-21

HYMN No. 254 "JESUS, I LIVE TO THEE"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ADAGIO CANTABILE" BEETHOVEN

ANTHEM: "I WALKED INTO THE GARDEN" BY WEAVER

SERMON: "OLD BEDSTEADS, ANYONE?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 469 "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MAESTOSO"

MARTIN

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED  
BY MR. & MRS. CUSTEAD IN MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. JOHN  
REINHOLD - "PARENTS". (MR. & MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD)  
THOSE SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND GOVERT,  
ROBBIE VINROE, BRIAN PFABE, ROBERT DELLEN, CHRIS  
PFABE.

ELDER ARTHUR SNYDER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE  
DOOR TODAY.

MRS. LINDA McMILLIN, JANE AND ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG  
WILL BE IN THE NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. GEORGE EICHORN, ALLEGHENY GEN.  
HOSP. - PITTS.; HAROLD CAMPBELL, MRS. MATTHEW  
DICKSON (HELEN) - BCMH.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON - NEW  
GRANDSON - BOY BORN TO MR. & MRS. CLYDE CURRY - BCMH.  
REMEMBER MAY 8 - MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TUREEN DINNER -  
6:00 - THE CIRCLE SQUARES (MARY MARTHA CIR.) ARE IN  
CHARGE OF THE PROGRAM AND WILL ENTERTAIN US WITH  
THEIR FAMOUS SUPRISE TALENT. MAKE A DATE NOW WITH  
YOUR MOTHER, DAUGHTER, NIECE OR JUST A FRIEND. MEAT  
AND DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED - YOU WILL  
NEED A TUREEN AND TABLE SERVICE.

TUESDAY - 7:30 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN OUR CHURCH.  
DAY DECLARED BY THE CONGRESS IN WHICH THEY ARE ASKING  
FOR A DAY OF HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER AND TO  
TURN TO GOD AND ASK HIS GUIDANCE AND HELP IN OUR  
COUNTRY.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE  
HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 225

THE CONFIRMATION PICTURES ARE IN THE OFFICE - THEY  
ARE BEAUTIFUL - SEE BEA IN THE OFFICE - \$4.00 EACH.

TUES. & THURS. - WORK NIGHT IN THE APARTMENT AT 110  
WALKER AVE.

MAY 5 - LAKE ERIE ASSOCIATION MEETING - LOIS WOGAN  
AND ANN WILLIAMS - DELEGATES - ST. MARKS - NEW HAMBURG.



2/

Is what Paul getting at.  
He sayings must leave all worthless monuments we  
tend bld, behind  
must point selves, others Almighty God, thru  
showing them Js Xp.

Hpw many us so concerned things-objects =bedstead

This in essence what Paul trying tell peop Philippi  
He say- vs 17

reminded house worked in several yrs ago.  
Couple live house, no children  
adopted every stray cat, dog, hurt, crippled etc.  
even went out town pick up  
she said spent 40-50 dollars month med.-animals.

About 18 yr ago took in home foster baby boy  
he afflicted cerebral palsy  
gave boy, all love & concern

Be now 18 only about this big, (2 feet)

Boybrequires all time & efforts, both hus. & wife

Here 2 cases same amt money spent med.

Why normal healthy peop take 24 hr. 7day wk job

Why normal healthy peop take 24 hr, 7day wk job  
care someone else afflicted child?  
Why on other hand person lavish all love, animal  
more humane destroy, & neglect use time-money  
helping other humans?

New York classic examp too many animals, peop no concern other humans.

Text: Deut. 3:11, "For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

Much ado made over size peop & things, present world  
Sports, biggest, heaviest linemen for football  
Basketball, looks fellows over 6 ft  
Business, industry, trying make, package lge  
economy sizes

group known as Rephaim

Moses telling story,

Bedstead referred to considered be Guria  
Made like bedstead.  
cubit 18in. length 13½ ft, wirth 6 ft  
can see large man

We looking back ancient history,  
even back there, inclination strive vast kingdoms,  
pires, wealth, amass fortunes  
g reached hts in power-riches  
Yet overthrown by Isites, & now they turn be  
figurative giants of world

Someone answer, "He left everything."  
Yes, everything left behind at passing of every life  
& sometimes only thing mark passing, old iron bed

Contrast life Og - life Paul tells about in Scrip.<sup>stea</sup>  
~~XXXXXXSAXXIXhaveXsufferedXtheXlossXofXallXthings~~  
~~XXXXXXSAXXIXhaveXsufferedXtheXlossXofXallXthings~~  
 (Read Phil 3:8)

Paul stating, nothing more worthwhile in world than serve Master Js Xp, all else nothing

In the book James we read,

3/

"If a brother or sister is illclad & in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be wrmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?"

It is more important to care for the afflicted humans all around us.

But u see, we all involved bilding monuments some Diff peop place diff priority on what import kind We all prob have some old iron bedstead our life should getvrid of.

Paul also says vss 18-21

Paul reiterating, we should be living for heavenly home,

forget living to selves here on earth

What will u & I leave behind?

Will merely be old iron bedsteads for anyone us?

Someone once said, "One life twill soon be past, & only that done for Js Xp will last."

"Old Bedsteads, Anyone?," or will it be that goal we press on toward, for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

### "Old Bedsteads, Anyone?"

Text: Deut. 3:11, "For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Much ado is made over the size of people and things in our present day world. For instance, in sports, the biggest and heaviest line-men are sought for football teams. In basketball, the teams are looking for the fellows who are well over six feet. In business and industry everyone is trying to make and package things in large economy sizes.

Well in the Bible there is a story of a man who was the last in a long line of giants of a certain tribe. This group was known as the Rephaim, and the story is found in Deuteronomy 3: Moses is telling this story and we read, (read 3:1-11)

"For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

The bedstead referred to in this scripture was considered by most authorities to be not a bedstead as we know it, but instead a burial sarcophagus. Using the rule of thumb that a cubit was 18 inches in length, this sarcophagus would have been 13½ feet long and 6 feet wide. Thus we can see that it would have been made for a large man.

From this story we can determine that only Og remained of a tribe of giants and he was also destroyed, and the only thing left was his iron bedstead. We are looking back over ancient history, and even way back then, the inclination was to strive for vast kingdoms and empires, for wealth and to amass fortunes. Og had reached the heights in power and riches. Yet, he was overthrown by the Israelites and it was now their turn to be the figurative giants of that part of the world.



A prominent ~~xxxxx~~ wealthy man died not too long ago and someone in striving to determine just how much money he had remarked, "How much did he leave." Someone else answered the question by saying, "He left everything." Yes, ~~sometimesxxxxxxx~~ everything is left at the end of every life, and sometimes the only thing left to mark the passing of someone is only an old iron bedstead.

Contrast the life of Og with the life Paul tells about in our scripture where he states, "For Jesus' sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him." Paul is stating that there is nothing more worthwhile in the world than serving the master Jesus Christ. All else is nothing compared to this.

He goes on to say, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call ~~xxx~~ of God in Christ Jesus," and he urges others of the same mind to do likewise.

Daniel Webster made the statement, "If we work upon marble it will perish, If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon men' immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

This is what Paul was getting at. He was saying that we should leave behind us all of those worthless monuments we tend to build to ~~xxxxxx~~ ourselves, and we must point ourselves and others to Almighty God through showing them Jesus Christ. How many people do you know that are all wrapped up in a monument that will left behind? How many of us are so concerned with things and objects that are the equivalent of the old iron bedstead of King Og?

Some years ago a London newspaper offered prizes for the best answers to the question, "Who are the happiest people on earth?"

The following were adjudged the four best answers:

The craftsman or artist whistling over a job well done  
A little child building sand castles  
A mother, after a busy day, bathing her baby  
A doctor who has finished a difficult and dangerous operation, and saved a human life.

Notice there are no playboys, no millionaires, no international jet setters, no kings, no hollywood stars, no people high on drugs or other stimulants. Just plain things that require work and love. This in essence was what Paul was trying to tell these people in Philippi. He said, "Join in imitatin me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us." He was beseeching others to follow him in this type of living. He was telling them that we can look at the lives of others and we can measure their Christianity by their lives.

This past week as I worked in the hospital as the Chaplain of the week, representing the Butler Area Council of Churches, I was reminded of a home in which I worked ~~several years ago~~ some years ago. The couple who lived in this house had no children. But they adopted every stray cat and dog that came around. In fact they even went to distant states to pick up dogs and cats their friends had collected and brought them back to Butler and nursed them back to health. The woman told me they spent between 40 and 50 dollars every month just in medicine for these animals.

On Thursday I called on a woman who did not belong to a church and who was very upset because she had to be in the hospital. As I listened to her story it soon became evident why she was upset. The story is that about 18 years ago she and her husband took into their home a baby boy as a foster child. The boy was ~~suffering~~ afflicted with cerebral palsy. ~~After several years~~ They gave this boy all of their love and their concern. After a certain length of time, the real mother of the boy decided she wanted to place in an institution, and wanted to sever all ties with him. The woman and her husband checked into adopting the boy, and in the process were told that if the boy were placed in an institution, he would ~~have~~ in all probability die within six months. The reason being that he had grown to love them in



his own special way. They had given him care and concern that he had never had before. Eventually they were able to adopt the boy and the mother was glad to be rid of him. She told me the boy is now 18 and he is only about this big, (about 2 feet). She said he knows them and responds to them and is able to say hello. But the boy requires all of her time and efforts as well as much of her husband's time. This is why she was so upset that she had to be in the hospital with a broken back, and was so anxious to get home. But the real clincher was when she told me that she spent between 40 and 50 dollars <sup>a month</sup> in medicines for this boy.

Here are two cases in which the same amount of money was being spent for medicines. One was for animals, the other for humans. ~~WHICHXWHICHX~~  
~~are the people~~ Why would a person who has no children otherwise, tie herself down to a 7 day a week, 24 hour a day job of raising someone else's afflicted child? when this was not something she had to do? Why on the other hand would a person lavish so much love on animals, many of which it would have been more humane to destroy, and neglect to ~~show that~~ use that money and time in helping some other human? I love animals, but I believe it is more important to care for the afflicted humans of the world than for the animals.

~~one woman was working to leave behind~~

But you see we all are involved in building a monument of some kind. Different people place different priorities on what is really important to them. We all probably have some old iron bedsteads in our lives that we should rid ourselves of. ~~then we read of some of the people of~~  
~~different people cannot help but feel~~ Paul also reminds us of this when he says, "Many of whom I told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself."



Paul is merely reiterating that we should be living for  
t<sup>o</sup> heavenly home and forget about living to ourselves here on earth.  
What will you and I leave behind? Will it merely be old bedsteads for anyone  
of us? Someone coined the words, "One life, twill soon be past, and only  
that done for Jesus Christ will last." Which will it be, old bedsteads,  
or

Someone once penned the words, "One life, twill soon be past,  
only that done for Jesus Christ will last." What will you and I leave be-  
hind? Will it merely be old bedsteads for anyone of us? Or will it be  
that ~~which~~ goal that we presson toward, for the upward call of God in  
Christ Jesus?

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME  
MOTHER'S DAY May 12, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MRS. CYNTHIA SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAULA STEPHENSON, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "CANATINA" RAFF  
"CABALETTA" LACK

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 12 "FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

\*ACRISPION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "CHRIST, WE ARE GLAD TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR KINGDOM, AND WE JOYFULLY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE WHICH OUR MEMBERSHIP SETS BEFORE US. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THAT CHALLENGE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, IN ORDER TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS WITH YOU AND ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST. JOIN US AS WE SEARCH OUR HEARTS AND WILLS, THAT WE MAY KNOW OUR SHORTCOMINGS. SEARCH OUR DESIRES AND AMBITIONS WITH US, THAT WE MAY KNOW IF THEY ARE PURE, SINCERE, AND WORTHY OF FULFILLMENT. ACCEPT OUR HONEST SEARCHING AS OUR CONFESSION IN CHRIST. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR.)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PROVERBS 31: 10-31

HYMN No. 390 "COME, LET US JOIN WITH FAITHFUL SOULS"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "LULLABY"

BRAHMS

ANTHEM: "IN PASTURES GREEN" - YOUTH CHOIR -

SOLO - LLOYD LINK

- BY ALLENE K. BIXBY

SERMON: "MOTHERS AND OTHERS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 11 "YE SERVANTS OF GOD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

BARNES

\*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. LOUIS ZUBIK IN MEMORY OF THEIR "MOTHERS"

RESSIE ZUBIK AND MABEL JONES.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW,

MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE

DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO

AND MARY ANN SNOW.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. JUDY MASSERT -560; MR. HERMAN

LIPPOLD - 377; MRS. MARY YOUNG.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 224.

THE CLOSING HYMN TODAY YE SERVANTS OF GOD IS THE

"NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUB'S" HYMN OF THE MONTH

FOR MAY. TODAY IS THE CLOSE OF NATIONAL MUSIC

WEEK.

WE WISH TO THANK MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON FOR PLAYING

THE PIANO TODAY.

MARIE STAUFFER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION FOR ALL THE CARDS AND VISITORS AND PASTOR LINK'S VISITS AND PRAYERS, WHILE SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

GEORGE EICHORN WANTS TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO SENT HIM CARDS - REMEMBERED HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS AND FOR THE PASTOR FOR HIS CALLS.

THE FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG

ADVOCATE OF MUSIC IN RELIGION AND THIS YEAR'S THEME:

"MUSIC ENHANCES LIFE" NOT ONLY SUGGESTS THE BEAUTY

AND PLEASURE THAT MUSIC CAN BRING TO ONE'S LIFE, BUT

ALSO REMINDS US OF THE GREAT LOVE OF OUR CREATOR,

FROM WHOM THIS BEAUTIFUL GIFT HAS COME JUST FOR OUR

VERY JOY OF IT. *SEMPER PARVO*

*REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE THIS WEEK - 6000.*

SCRIP: 1 PETER 3:1-12; SERM: "MOTHERS & OTHERS"

~~(ILUS MICH, FLORIDA, HOLLYWOOD) #1~~

~~(EXPLANATIN MOTHERS DAY/FAMILY WK/ETC) #2~~

BGIN EXAMPLS SHO BRKDN FAMLYS AS V.P. DAN QUAYLE PT OUT US LAFF AT

NOW IT POLIT COREC 2SPK THIS & EVN OCUPANT WHIT HOUS SEZ IT WILB ISSUE IN NOV ELECTIN - BUT WIL IT BRING BOUT CHANG?  
MUS WAIT & C

PETER SETS TH/STANDARD FOR TH/HOME IN THIS SCRIP

~~VS 1-4 GUD HOME STARTS W/MARAG~~

~~(ILUS GUD & LETH TO MINGST) #3~~

3GENRATINS MOTHERS • HOW DO U LIKE THEM??

~~VS 1-6 SUBMISSIN - HOW SOCIETY LKS AT THIS 2DAY~~  
PERHAPS THIS WHY HAV THEZ DEFINITINS OF MOTHERS ----  
~~(ILUS MOTHERS & MOTHERS DAY) #4~~

~~VS 7-NOTICE - ADVIC APPY/GIVN 2HUSBS & MEN~~

~~VS 8-NOTIC WORD=COMPASSIN & IT MEANS 2B SYMPATHETIC~~  
SYMPATHIZ W/OTHERS PROBS  
& HOW CAN U B SYMP?? ~~ENLY~~

~~(ILUS MARTHA HAND ON REB, BCUZ HART THER) #5~~

MUS HAV A HART/FEELINGS 4FEELINGS OF OTHERS

~~VS 9-11-THIS GOLDN RULE - DO UNTO OTHERS AS ~~THXX~~ U WUD HAV DO~~  
BUT SOCIETY HAS REVERS ALL THIS  
IT DO 2THEM B4THEY CAN DO IT TO U

~~(ILUS WOMN BUSNES, BUT MUS BCOM MOTHER 2B COMPLETELY FULFILLD)~~

~~IMMORAL WOMEN BCOM MOTHERS, NO FATHER~~

~~MEN BCOM FATHERS & DESERT WOMEN & CHILDREN~~

~~(ILUS MOTHER & SMER OUTSIDE WORK - KAREN CAVALERI) #6~~

~~VS 12=G WIL BLES WAT U DO THAT IS RT~~  
KNOWS UR NEEDS & IF U ENTRUST 2HIM, HE WIL ANSR  
THIS DAY 2HONOR MOTHERS, BUT HOW MANY REALY DO??

HOW MANY DO THINGS OUT OF SENS OBLIGATIN BCUZ ADVERT/COMMERC

~~(ILUS MAN, GIRL & ROOB, CEMETARY & GO G MCM IN PERSON) #7~~

CELEBRAT 2BAY W/LUV'D ONES

SPEND TIM 2GETHR, NOT BCUZ U SHAMD INTO IT, BUT BCUZ U WANT TO

LUV ONE ANOTHER

BUT DONT 4GET 2THANK G 4ALL U HAV

SHAR UR LUV W/GOD 4WAT HE HAS DUN 4US

IT'S WORTH A TRY & MAYB TH/START OF CHANG OUR SOCIETY

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGMORE, PA. - MAY 12, 1996

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

\*RESPONSIVE READING #14

\*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

XXXXX PASTORAL PRAYER

XXXXX HYMN

SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3:1-12

SERMON: "MOTHERS AND OTHERS"

ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER - 5/12/74

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

\*HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

MARY - RECUP

JODA - RAN/ATTO

SHIRLEY -

HEATHER -

JEAN



These few exams

But U see, home most import inst in world  
Isn't ability have children,  
(ven woman mental inst. can have baby.

Not import woman can have child. but what kind paren  
is she? ~~WOMAN IN FLORIDA - 40-70-140 POUND LIFE REMAINS~~  
(Read I Peter 3:1-4 ~~MOTHER ALMOST HATES.~~

P r admonishing women in ~~xxxxxxx~~ I Peter 3:3-4  
telling not only be obedient wives, but be examp  
for husband.

He saying; "Look, perhaps you married unbeliever,  
he may not believe in Christ. If this case  
way win him over live as Xpian."

He saying, "Don't be concerned about the outward  
appearance of your hair so much, or the wearing of  
jewelry, and fancy clothes, it is what is inside  
your heart that is of more importance. For this is  
the imperishable treasure ~~xxxx~~ of a quiet & gentle  
spirit & nature that God loves."

This good advice for us today as well.

We living in world obsessed with looks.

We spend more cosmetics any nation in world.

I no talk women only, men as well.

Madison ave. decreed past few yrs men have changing  
fashions.

Each yr we tempted wear new cuts suits ~~xxxx~~ shirts  
etc, now even wierd shoes.

What not being said, this done make money,  
unfortunately, many fooled believing this cause  
someone really cares how we men look.

Looks today very important

Men, women getting facelifts remove wrinkles,  
cause wrinkles spell old age, & peop no want act

Minister tell of attending conference each yr Balti.  
last yr attended & theme helping peop after surgery  
Part of it was slides showing silicone injections  
into womens breasts to make more shapely.

What this has do help minister perform his ministry  
better I no know.

But every where we turn, we confronted with urge  
look better, dress better, & bettering of lives  
never mentioned.

Azazed how many peop talk to tell me, "I would go  
t. church if only had proper clothes."  
I would like someone tell me where in Bible it says  
we need to dress or look a certain way come Gods  
house.

2/

## "Mothers And Others!"

Tex.: I Peter 3:3-4,

"Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding  
of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes,  
but letbit be the hidden person of the heart with  
the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit  
which in God's sight is very precious."

Today Mother's Day

Good old Mom will be wined & dined as magnificently  
as average son or datters wallet can stand strain

~~not good old Mom, but good old Mom, who is the~~  
~~best of all~~

~~Today~~  
~~Today~~

~~Today~~ climax Xpian fam wk

Past few yrs devoting sermon Mom, frowned on

So day been expanded Family life Sun.,

or, Home interpersonal relationships day,

or, a period for the re-evaluation between parents

& children,

or, Father, Mother, Children & their relationship to

the church,

or whatever, ELSE ANYONE COULD THINK TO CALL IT.

We could go on, but 1 individ summed beautifully

in poem, "All the women of the world belong to one

or the other of two classifications,"

poem is short & sweet,

"There are mothers,

Then there are others!"

Let me read letter sent to minister in Midwest,

(Letter from teen pregnant girl)

~~Not a mother, but a~~ HERE is opportunity look 3 gener-

ations of mothers.

How do you like them?

Aren't they wonderful peop to be entrusted raise

This why I deplore this hypocritical day

Anyone truly loves, obeys parents doesn'tvneed

special day for it.

Perhaps this why we come point can look at national

stitution of motherhood & coin some humorous phras

(Illustration Mother is etc.)

Perhaps we church peop need ponder image we  
create as to dress  
Js say, "Take no thot what U should wear, eat  
Wf : more import, is heart.  
(illustration little Martha, bless your heart)  
3/ Perhaps confused, but where our heart?  
Is it involved showing our Christianity?  
Or is it in how we look, or what is latest fashion  
we can buy?  
Love really happens to be the most import ingredient  
in family as well as world  
In Hsburg paper cartoon "love is" some others  
(Here are Few) peop have written are;  
Lovely aren't they?  
But mostly have ring of truth about them.  
We want show love & only way can do is special day  
Life come ultimate tragedy when we reduced this  
perversion.  
Do you love your mother cause today May 12?  
Will U love your father June 16 cause Fathers Day?  
Do u love family cause today Festival Xpian home?  
It's absurd isn't It?  
Solomon tells us the qualities of a good wife &  
mother.  
And thru it all is woven the strand of her love  
for her husband, children & home.  
She loves because she is first loved.  
We all love because we have been loved.  
God loves us, & why?  
Because it is Easter or Christmas, or Thanksgiving  
c New Year's?  
Of course not.  
He loves because He loves us, period.  
& Just as God loves us, we should love 1 another.  
We should love wives, husbands, children, families  
not because we told to, not cause special day,  
but cause we want to love.  
XX  
XX  
The love of mothers strongest love in world.  
Old saying, "behind every good man, good woman,"  
true.  
True cause good man, only good, usually cause of  
mother sometimes wife.

4/  
I fortunate have both,  
Saw mother many times make sacrifices me, family.  
Same with wife,  
Seen her sacrifice on self for kids, me.  
I don't know about you, for me, I no need special  
day pay respects mother.  
Thank God often for mother.  
Remember her cause love her, & not cause May  
12th  
(Illustration Two Temples)  
Those children who really love mother, will do  
do more than once yr and may many, many families  
XX  
XX  
XX  
spend the day together, learning to share and love  
each other, instead of trying to outdo each other  
in trying to feed and honor mother.  
In this way we can become complete families instead  
of being separated as mother, father and children.  
Instead, let us be Christian families, knit to-  
gether in the common bond of love for each other,  
and ~~God~~ IN LOVE TOWARD GOD, & IN THE LOVE THAT  
GOD GIVES TO US.

"Hearts, Flowers and Humbug!"

Text: I Peter 3:10-12, "Anyone who wants to have a happy life and to enjoy prosperity must banish malice from his tongue, deceitful conversation from his lips; he must ~~yield~~ never yield to evil but must practice good; he must seek peace and pursue it. Because the face of the Lord frowns on all men, but the eyes of the Lord are turned towards the virtuous."

Today is Mother's Day. Good old Mom will be wine and dined as magnificently as the average Son or Daughters wallet can stand the ~~burden~~ <sup>STRAIN</sup>. All week long I have been hearing an ad by Bell Telephone to place your calls early to mother so you can get through. I even considered calling her at about 4:00 A.M., but I don't think she would have appreciated that.

But this morning is also the climax of Christian Family Week and today is known as the Festival of the Christian home. For the past few years the practice of devoting a sermon to just Mother's has been frowned upon. So instead the day has been expanded to Family Life Sunday, or Home Interpersonal Relationships Day, or A Period For The RE-evaluation of Domestic Communication Between Parents and Children, or Father, Mother, Children and Their Relationship To The Church, or <sup>WHICH IS JUST AS WELL,</sup> whatever. We could go on, but I think one individual has summed it up beautifully when he wrote the poem entitled, "All of the Women of the World Belong to One or the Other of Two Classifications." The poem is very short and it reads:

"There are mothers

Then there are others."

Let me read you a letter that was sent to a minister of a large church in the Midwest.  
(Letter from A Teen aged pregnant girl.)

The minister added that the letter came from the very town in which he lived and in which his church was located. He said that in the letter there is the opportunity to look at three generations of mothers. How do you like them? Aren't they wonderful people to be



entrusted with raising children? This is one reason why I deplore this hypocritical ~~ix~~ day. Anyone who truly loves and obeys his or her parents doesn't need a special day for it. Perhaps this is why we have in our present age come to the point where we can coin some humorous phrases about that national institution known as motherhood. Here are just a few: Mother's Day is the day when we remember to tell our spouse to remember to remind us to remember to remind Mother that she is remembered on Mother's Day.

or "A mother is a female who forgets to take her pill."

or "A mother who has trained her son well is one who when she asks for a screw driver, he brings her the orange juice and gin."

or "A mother is a boy's best friend, if he gets home late enough to find her there."

or "A mother is one who has learned to hold both a cigarette and a safety pin in her mouth at the same time."

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES.

But you see the home is the most important institution in our world today. It isn't just the ability to have children, because even a woman confined to a mental institution who is completely healthy otherwise, can have a baby. Thus it is not so important that a woman can have children, but what kind of a parent will she be?

Peter was admonishing the women of his day in this respect. He was telling them ~~know~~ not only to be obedient wives, but to be an example for their husbands. He was saying to them something like: "Look, perhaps you're married to a fellow who is not a Christian, may be he doesn't believe in Christ. If this is the case, the way to win him over is to live as a Christian." He was saying that they should not be so concerned with how their hair was fixed, or if they were dressed in the latest fashions. He said, "Do not dress up for show; doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart."

This is good advice for us today as well. We are living in a world that seems obsessed with looks. We spend more on cosmetics

and perfumes than any other nation in the world. I'm not just talking about women, but men as well. Madison Avenue has decreed in the past few years that men must have changing fashions just like the women. So now each year we are being tempted to wear new cuts of suits and shirts and now even <sup>WIFE</sup> shoes. What they are not saying is that this is being done so they can make more money. Unfortunately many people are fooled into thinking that this is because someone is really concerned how we men look.

Looks today are so important. <sup>MEN &</sup> Women are getting facelifts to ~~get the wrinkles~~ remove the wrinkles, because wrinkles spell age, and people don't want to act their age. A minister was telling me this past week he had attended a meeting in Baltimore that is held each year at this time, ~~and~~ <sup>Each</sup> ~~year~~ year it has a different theme. This years theme had to do with surgery and ~~helping~~ <sup>& THROUGH IT</sup> helping people in it. But one portion of it had to do with plastic surgery and slides <sup>WERE SHOWN</sup> and a lecture <sup>WAS GIVEN</sup> ~~ON~~ <sup>ON</sup> how plastic surgeons are implanting silicone into womens breasts in order to make them shaplier. Now what this has to do with helping a clergyman perform his ministry I can't say. But it seems to me that no matter where we turn we are confronted with the urge to look so much better, dress so much better, and the betterment of our lives is something that is not discussed.

It is amazing how many people I have talked to about coming to church and who have told me they would come to church, "if only they had the right clothes." I would like someone to show me where it states in the Bible that we must dress or look a certain way. <sup>PERHAPS WE CHURCH PEOPLE NEED TO PONDER THE IMAGE</sup> Jesus said, "Take no thought what you should wear or eat," etc."

What should be of more importance is the heart.

In school little Martha always placed her hand on top of her head when the class recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The teacher asked her why she did this and she replied, "Well, that's where my heart is. My mother always pats me on the head and says, "Bless your little heart.'"

WE  
CREATE  
AS TO  
DRESS.

The little girl may be confused, but where is our heart? Is it involved in showing others our Christianity? Or is it in how we look, or what is the latest in clothing we can buy?

Last week we heard about love. Well, love is one of the most important ingredients in the family as well as in the world. In the newspaper each evening is a little cartoon that tells what love is. Here are a few examples of what people are saying that love is:

"Love is emotion sickness."

"Love is the lasting tender affection shared between two drunks."

"Love is like running down the street naked. You can be forgiven on the grounds of insanity."

"Love is what you try hardest to find before the bar closes."

"Love is what makes women shave their legs."

"Love is a vacation from reality."

"Love is what causes babies, and so does carelessness."

"Love is what makes all mothers seem like good cooks."

Loveley aren't they? But ~~they~~<sup>THEY</sup> mostly have a ring of truth about them.

We want to show love, and the only way we can show it is to dedicate a certain day of the year to do this. I think life has come to the ultimate tragedy when we are reduced to this perversion. Do you love your mother because today is May 13<sup>th</sup> and mother's Day? Will you love your Father on June 17<sup>th</sup> because it is Father's Day? Will you love your family because today is also the Festival of the Christian Home? It's absurd isn't it?

13/17

Why does God love us? ~~Because~~<sup>13/17</sup> it is Easter or Christmas or Thanksgiving, or New Year's? Of course not. He loves us because He loves us, period. No special observances or no special days can change that. And just as God loves us because He is really concerned about you and me, so should we love one another. So should we love our mother and our father and our families. Not because of a special day, but because we want to love. Hearts and flowers are nice sentiments



at anytime and not just on the 2nd Sunday of May. ~~So perhaps we need~~  
~~to say that~~ I'll try to remember my mother because I love her, and not  
because someone has been telling me all week to call her, or send her  
flowers, or not to forget her, <sup>AND</sup> I'll try to do it the rest of the  
year as well. So I <sup>MUST</sup> add humbug, to the hearts and flowers ~~to~~ today.

Perhaps the best lessons for the home are taught not by  
adults, but by children. ~~4~~

(Illustration of boy saying they do not say Grace, because they pay for  
their food.)

Contrast this with a little boy who desired to say Grace  
at table. This is a true story.

(Illustration of boy and his atheistic dad.)

Perhaps we need more little children such as this in our  
nation and in the world to show us what love really is. Perhaps you  
and I need to gather in our homes today as a family, and not be con-  
cerned that we take mother out to a restaurant, <sup>OR BUY HER PRESENTS & FLOWERS</sup> to show her our love.  
And perhaps in the privacy of our homes we can gather together and tell  
each other as a family that we love each other. Who knows, maybe we  
will get to know one another better. But perhaps more importantly we  
could share our love with God, for what He has done for us and given  
us. It's ~~worth a try~~ worth a try isn't It?

"Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets  
and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperish-  
able: the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition- this is what is  
precious in the sight of God."

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:  
sing forth the honor of His name:  
make His praise glorious.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER MAY 19, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
GORDON KENNEDY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E FLAT" MOOREHEAD  
"ANDANTE CON MOTO" JOHNSTON

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 39 "SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK"

\*ACRIFITION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE  
DONE LITTLE TO FORWARD THY KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD, TO  
ESTABLISH THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN, AND LOVE AS THE LAW  
OF LIFE. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WHATSOEVER IS DONE  
TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THY BRETHREN IS DONE UNTO THEE.  
PARDON OUR SHORTCOMINGS; FORGIVE OUR PAST NEGLECT.  
GIVE US A SIMPLE AND A SINGLE HEART INTENT ON PLEASING  
THEE. HELP US IN ALL OUR SEEKING TO SEEK FIRST THY  
KINGDOM AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE BLESSED WITH  
THE FULL MEASURE OF THY BLESSING. AND MAKE US TO COME,  
AS CAME THY SON JESUS CHRIST, NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO,  
BUT TO MINISTER. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EPHESIANS 5: 15-33

HYMN No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "IN A QUIET GARDEN" SERGISSON  
ANTHEM: "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR" ARR. BY CHRISTIANSEN  
SERMON: "MAKING A KING!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRETTO MAESTOSO" WILSON

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
DONN E. MILLER IN MEMORY OF "MOTHER" DOROTHY KALB  
MILLER.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY: \*CHARLES FENAR, DARYL TAIT,  
GARY FENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACON AND MRS. HARRY FRY WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT  
THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT  
AND FAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. HERMAN LIPPOLD, MRS. MARY YOUNG,  
AND REV. GRANVILLE COOPER.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 233.

MR. WILLIAM DUTTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION  
FOR ALL THE CARDS AND PRAYERS AS HE IS CONVALESCING.  
OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE WIFE AND FRIENDS OF CARL  
MILLER WHO PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY.

COMING SOON! - THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL SPONSOR  
A GARAGE SALE AT THE REAR OF 303 WALKER AVE. ITEMS  
ARE NEEDED FOR THE SALE. ANY LARGE ITEMS WILL BE  
PICKED UP BY CALLING THE ROBERT KNAUER'S OR DON  
KENNEDY'S. THE SALE WILL BE MAY 31 AND JUNE 1ST.  
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR RESERVATION IN/ FOR THE CHURCH  
SCHOOL WORKERS RECOGNITION DINNER ON MAY 29 - PLEASE  
DO SO.

REMEMBER - BEAT RECYCLING CENTER, SATURDAY MAY 25TH,  
NEGLEY AVE. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT LIZ ARMSTRONG  
287-2486.

NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL PUBLISH NAMES OF THOSE GRADUATING  
FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BUSINESS SCHOOL AND COLLEGE -  
PLEASE - IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO - CONTACT BEA TAIT  
IN THE OFFICE OR AT HOME.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CAMPING? HAVE YOU GOTTEN A REGISTR.  
SCHEDULE FROM THE OFFICE. THE CHURCH WILL PAY REGISTR.

't this true? 2/  
 cut finger, do we not bandage disinfect etc.  
 if we tire self mental, physically, do we not rest  
 thus take care body.  
 (this show love for own flesh etc?  
 If apply this to wife relationship, we to love them  
 as we self.  
 P also bring in creation story, man leave father,  
 mother joined to wife & two become one.  
 P liken this to Xp & church, which perfect union.  
 there no perfect union in humanity,  
 only Xp & church perfect union,  
 But this standard toward which we strive  
 De 7E PEOPLE EVER AS F IN MEAN IS PEOPLE.  
 Almost all heard, "A man's home is his castle"  
 To which we ask "Who live in castle?"  
 Royalty & royal families, right?  
 How many ladies felt or feel husband king?  
 Perhaps ask, "How many crowned husband, but better  
 not ask, may cause embarrassment?"  
 If accept above statement, then we talk Making A King  
 Each man in own right ruler little domain  
 But does actually work that way?  
 I do not believe too much anymore  
 At one time almost all fathers/husbands rulers own  
 household.  
 What Dad said, went.  
 Today just reverse true,  
 too often what Mom says, goes.  
 Many men relinquished rt to use their rightsul auth.  
 Caused by wanting no part raise family, let Mom do it  
 This against all normal, natural in husband/wife  
 relationship.  
 Doesn't mean hus, must dominate home, make everyone  
 slave  
 Does mean man should be just that, A MAN  
 I maybe old fashioned, but still believe man has  
 certain role, woman has certain role.  
 When women start act man, man start acting woman,  
 all out of kilter & we reap harvest according.  
 (male telephone operators good example)  
 Look stats divorce, separation,  
 " " frustrated men, women, children  
 " " mixed up broken homes,  
 Almost all can be traced breakdown Am. home  
 Fathers, husbands, men in gen should be stabilizing  
 fluence upon which society functions  
 But alas, too often male populace too busy pur-  
 sue business, profession, or pleasure.

## "Making A King!"

Text: Ephesians 5:28-33

"Even so husbands should love their wives as their  
 own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.  
 For no man ever hate his own flesh, but nourishes and  
 cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we  
 are members of His body. For this reason a man shall  
 leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife  
 and the two shall become one." This is a great my-  
 story, and I take it to mean ~~XXXXXX~~ Christ and  
 the church; however, let each one of you love his  
 wife as himself, and let the wife see that she re-  
 spects her husband."

Last wk those here, recal talked wives, mothers,  
 said this wk deal fathers, husbands.  
 looked critically Am. inst. motherhood,  
 this morn look equal critically male counterpart  
 inst. known fatherhood.

Altho image male as Father & parent not blown out  
 proportion as female, mother,  
 still disturb any male, father when contemplate image

Paul had some distinct things say men of Ephesus  
 this scrip for morn

Prob 1st things ladies heard P advocate obed to hus  
 May rankle some you, perhaps cause felt put down.  
 But must understand time written.

Women in day of P of little value  
 of v fit work, bear children  
 Otherwise, no station in life.

But P address women were Xpian.

Js placed new standard role women in society  
 " taught against divorce woman no longer please man  
 " " enslaving anyone, thus advanced women's  
 lib.

P tell women be careful in conduct, because women  
 being of value & worth needed nurturing & working  
 He perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, at  
 until you in better position to assert self." at  
 But what P really point out, men begin love wife as  
 he love own body.

(w this put diff lite on subject.

He also point out, "No one hates his own flesh,  
 but nourishes it and cherishes it."



homefires kept burning, glowing by little woman, 3/  
if indeed she is there & not out working.

Little by little husband/father relinquish all control until perhaps kids ask, "Who that strange man?"  
May be far fetched but some homes like this almost

(Illustration Joe Goebbels)

Not only in home need good Xpian fathers, but in Church, workaday world, & wherever influence of good men should be felt.

Not always what say, but what we do & live speaks  
(Illustration Robert McCheyne) others.

Wouldn't be wonderful lead someone to Lord this

We each have opportunities, & time we changed way?  
& became examps to others

Especially to our child. gran=childs, neighbor kids

(Illustration Mrs. Richards "Hand You Hold")

Did U ever stop/think how U may be molding, influencing some young person in way act, things do & not do,

by habits, by things say & kind of language?

Yes, those little eyes upon us, little ears listen  
& we should & must be providing proper guidance

(Illustration little boy & too dark out)

It indeed too dark to send any son/dotter into world without Father.

This P point out, he tell all peop need F., God  
This F. best shown Js Xp who is God in flesh,  
& Js Xp King of King, beckon all men emulate Him  
in living of life.

We men too often all wrapped up work, provide for family.  
are

We forget our homes our castles

& in those castles should reside men/kings, women/queens, children/princes, princesses.

Peop who all are royal children of God.

But what really make King?

(Illustration "Door Man's Castles")

Men, fathers, husbands, grandfathers, uncles, nephews, or whatever be station in life,  
now accepted time be about salvation souls, young & old,

& most of all salvation of selves so we be about, "making A King" in indiv. homes, & surround area

It too dark go out without Father, & especially without Father who king thru Js Xp. living in his life.

"Making A King!"

Text: Ephesians 5:28-33

Then so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church; however let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Last week, those of you who were here, will recall that we talked about wives and mothers, and we said ~~last~~ this week we would be dealing with husbands and fathers. I took a rather critical look at the great American institution known as motherhood, and this morning I would like ~~to take a just as critical~~ <sup>THE</sup> to look just as critically at <sup>the</sup> Male counterpart of this institution known as Fatherhood. Although the image of the male as a father and parent has not become as blown out of proportion as that of the female as a mother, it is still rather disturbing to any male or any father when we contemplate the image created for us.

Paul had some very distinct things to say to the men of Ephesus, which we read as our scripture for this morning. Probably one of the first things you ladies heard in that scripture was that Paul ~~was~~ advocated the obedience of wives to their husbands. Although this may rankle some of you, and perhaps cause you to feel that you are being put down, you must understand the age and the time in which it was written. Women in the days of Paul were of little value. They were in most instances only fit to do the work that needed to be done, and to bear children. Other than that, they held no station in life.

But Paul was addressing himself to women who were Christians. Jesus placed a new standard on the role of women in society. He taught against a man divorcing his wife on the whim that she no longer pleased him. He spoke against anyone enslaving anyone else, and thus Jesus advanced the cause for women's liberation. So when Paul is telling the women to be obedient to their husbands he is merely telling them, that they must be careful as to their conduct, because the idea of a woman being of value and



worth, needed to be nurtured and worked at. So he was perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, until you are in a better position to assert yourselves."

But what Paul really points out is that men should begin to love their wives as they love their own bodies. Now this puts a different light on the subject, because as he also points out, "No one hates his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it." Isn't this true? If we cut our finger, do we not disinfect it and bandage it? If we tire ourselves out physically or mentally, we rest up so we may be able to perform our functions once again. Thus we can see that we take care of our bodies. By this we also show a love for our own flesh. So if we apply this to our relationship with our wives, we see then that we are to love them, as we love ourselves. But Paul also brings in a portion of the creation story, where we are told a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one. Paul likens this union to the union of Christ with his church. Which would be a perfect union, and we know that there are no perfect unions in humanity. Only Christ and the church are perfect unions, and really what Paul is setting before us is a standard toward which we are to strive.

I am sure that almost all of us have heard at one time or another the saying, "A man's home is his castle." To which we could ask, "Who lives in castles?" Royalty and royal families. right? How many of you ladies have ever felt that your husband was a king? Perhaps we should ask, "how many of you have crowned your husbands,?", but maybe we better not ask that to avoid embarrassment. But if we accept the statement that a man's home is his castle, then we are talking about the making of kings. Each man in his own right then is the ruler of his own little domain. But does it actually work that way? I do not believe that it does anymore. At one time almost all husbands and fathers were indeed the rulers of their households. What Father said, went. Oftentimes this authority was very much abused. But today just the reverse is true. Too often whatever Mom



says, goes. Many men have relinquished their right to use their rightful authority, just so they can sit in front of the TV undisturbed and let Mom do the chores, as well as the raising of the kids.

This is going against all that is normal and natural in the husband wife relationship. This does not mean that a man is to completely dominate the home and make everyone his slave, but it does mean that man should be just that, a man. I ~~may~~ be old fashioned, but I still believe that men have a certain role to play in life, and women have their role, and when women start acting and behaving as men, and men start acting and behaving as women, we have thrown everything out of kilter and we are going to reap the benefits in many ways. TELEPHONE ILLUS. (MALE OPERATOR)

Look at the statistics of divorce and separation, at the statistics of juvenile delinquency, at the statistics of frustrated men, women, and children, and the statistics of mixed up broken homes, and almost all of it can be traced to the breakdown of the American home.

Fathers, husbands, and men in general should be the stabilizing influence upon which our society functions. But alas, too often the male populace is so busy pursuing business or profession, the homefires must be kept burning, and glowing by the little woman, who waits patiently for the return of the breadwinner, and meantime is father, mother, nurse, housekeeper all rolled up into one. And gradually little by little the husband and father relinquishes all control in ~~the family~~ family matters until perhaps the kids ask, "Who is that strange man sitting in the living room Mommy?" Now this may be a little far fetched, but some homes are almost like this.

(Illustration of Joseph Goebbels being unloved in S.S.)

It is not only in the home that we need good Christian fathers and husbands, but in the Church, in the workaday world, and wherever the influence of good men should be felt. It is not always what we may say, but perhaps ~~we~~ **THE** we live that speaks to others.

(Illustration of Robert McCheyne & his influence upon soemone)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to lead someone to the Lord in this manner? We have the opportunities each of us, and it is time we changed and became examples to others. And we must especially be examples to our children, grand-children, and yes, even the neighbor kids.

(Mrs. A. H. Richards wrote about this very thing, "The Hand You Hold")

Did you ever stop to think how you may be molding and influencing some young person by the way you act, by the things you do or do not do, by your habits, or by the things you say and the kind of language you use? This is very sobering when we contemplate this, is it not? Yes, those little eyes are upon us, and those little ears are listening, and we should and must be providing the proper guidance.

(Illustration of little boy & need of father, "Too Dark Out")

It is indeed too dark to send any son or daughter out into the world today without a father. This is what Paul is really pointing out. He is telling all of us that people have need of the Father which is God. That this Father can best be shown through Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, and Jesus Christ the King of Kings beckons all men to emulate Him in the living of life.

We men ~~who are fathers, husbands~~ are too often so wrapped up in the working and providing for our families, that we forget that our homes are indeed our castles. And in those castles should reside men who are kings, and women who are queens, and children who are princes, and princesses. People who are <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ the royal children of God. But what really makes a king? (Illustration of a "Poor Man's Castles")

Men, fathers, husbands, grand-fathers, uncles, nephews, or whatever may be your station in life, now is the accepted time for us to be about the salvation of souls, young and old. And most of all the salvation of ourselves so we can be about "Making A King" in our individual homes, and in the surrounding areas. It is too dark to go out without a Father, and especially without a Father who is a king, through Jesus Christ living in his life.



The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity guarding the paths of justice.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

RECOGNITION OF SENIORS May 26, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
GORDON KENNEDY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "SABBATH REVERIE" MARTIN  
"WHEN GOD LEADS" CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 446 "NOW IN THE DAYS OF YOUTH"

\*ACRISPION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL, WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASING TO THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND CLEAR MIND, WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I SAMUEL 2: 12-26

HYMN No. 447 "Purer yet and purer"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "INTERMEZZO IN E"

PEERY

ANTHEM: "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

WARD

SERMON: "THE KEEFERS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 448 "I WOULD BE TRUE"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

SERGISSON

--- \*CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. JAMES STEWART IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELLA STEWART.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT, ROBBIE VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE, STEVE SMITH. DEACON AND MRS. ROBERT KNAYER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL. NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY LINDA McMILLIN, JANE AND LIZ ARMSTRONG.

NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING TONIGHT.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE. THOSE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL ARE: DERBY CAMPBELL, WENDY CUSTEAD, CINDY FERREE, JAMES HEATH, NANETTE MARDURGER, TERRY MOHR, SUSAN PALMER, BRENDA PAWK, TRINA RENSEL, SHERRY RENSEL, SHIRLEY RIEMER, GLENDA WEICHEY.

FROM BUTLER CO. COMMUNITY COLLEGE: CHUCK SMITH - SON OF MRS. GERALDINE MCCANDLESS, VALLE JEAN NICHOLAS, PAMELA TAIT, RALPH TAYLOR.

COLLEGE: EDWARD HARMON, MASTERS DEGREE, SECONDARY EDUCATION, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY. KENNETH W. ROBINSON, FROM CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA, PA.

FROM LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - REV. RALPH C. LINK.

THIS COMING FRIDAY 9-9 AND SAT. 9-5 - WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL HOLD A GARAGE SALE AT THE REAR OF 303 WALKER AVE. ITEMS ARE NEEDED AND SO IS YOUR SUPPORT. ANY LARGE ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP - CALL R. KNAYER'S OR DON KENNEDY'S.

THE APARTMENT AT 110 WALKER AVE. IS COMPLETED AND READY TO LEASE - IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED CALL ART SNYDER OR CONTACT THE OFFICE. BOB KNAYER WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY. MRS. MARY YOUNG IS NOW AT SUNNYVIEW HOME. RECOGNITION DINNER - WED. MAY 29TH AT 6:30 P.M.

SMALL  
ALL  
WORTH



If we apply within own fams, we know we bros, sis 2/ keepers  
 While we concentrate thots on fams, come today look at 1 main reason for fams, ths children.  
 ons, dotters.  
 Have looked Mothers & Fathers, now time children (Illustration mother & play pen)  
 Reading recently coming back old ways raising kids  
 Author article point out we tried gen, Dr. Spock & his theory of spare rod.  
 Most will recall Spock wrote book, advocate no punishment or spank.  
 Should talk child, never physical punishment.  
 His theory caused some unhealthy situations in Nation  
 Supposedly author say, he withdrawn theory  
 Unfortunately, many peop not see his retraction  
 Always bothers me, sensational news spread front page thruout nation.  
 If wrong & need correction, retraction printed in want-ads or place where need magnify glass where seldom seen.  
 Another eminent psychiatrist say, "Children need rules & discipline for emotion health, as much need bread & butter for physical health."  
 Another say, "A child's character cannot be shaped by sudden accident."  
 (Illustration dead bird in my hand)  
 I thot of creation God, entrusted to a dumb creature thot of futility & frustration not to do more thot of many homes where children be raised  
 How we as parents do not own children, merely loaned entrusted by God to raise productive peop, we "Keepers", to ed, feed, clothe, develop etc  
 This grave respons, sometimes graveness only come after child. on scene  
 Some cases this awareness only after almost grown  
 Sadly, some child must raise selves,  
 Needless say, this cause problems  
 Many times in convers peop outside church, told when child reach certain age free choose ch. or rel.  
 This bad situation say least  
 (Illustration J. Edgar Hoover)  
 We as parents cannot afford let child choose every If we fed this manner, all cake, ice cream  
 be then, graveness situation lies.  
 This not mean we be complete dictators, but do mean we to be shapers, molders that character God has entrusted to us.

# "The Keepers!"

Text: I Sam. 2:12, & 26

"The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord.  
 And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Text this morn taken 2nd chap. I Sam. 12 & 26 vs.  
 The 2 vs tell 2 diff storys  
 (Read Verses)

Hannah 1 of 2 wives Elkanah

Peninnah other wife able bear child, taunt Hannah for sterility.

On yrly trip Temp in Shiloh, Hannah pray in temp

Promise God if son, will dedicate to Lord.

God herd prayer, gave Sam.

Sam means, "Name of God," or, "His name is God."

Took boy temp Shiloh early age, he left with Eli

Eli good man, sons not.

Took best meat selves, if not given, took by force

Author tell young Sam, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child girded with a linen ephod."

Which says, he wear priestly garment, act in capacity assistant to priest Eli.

Sam mother must been good woman, loving.

We told made little coat each yr, took him when she & Dad at yrly sacrifice.

Script say, Eli bless Hannah, Elkanah because loan Sam to Lord. She had 3 more son, 2 dotter

We read, "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men"

In ancient Israel, word keeper several meaning

Most common, guard over cattlem, sheep.

Abel keeper of sheep, read 4th chap Gen/

Cain kill Abel in fit anger.

God ask cain whereabouts Abel, Cain answer,

"I know not: am I my brothers keeper?"

Thus he say, "Am I guard or shep over brother?"

Am I expected to look after him & care for him?"

When we ponder this we realize of course, this saying

ded down to us today.

Peop ask, when question relationship to other peop,

"Am I my bros keeper?"

The ideal child/young person something all parents would like raise 4/

This ideal called many things.

Young people who probably have secret yearning to be like

this ideal boy or girl.

They coined phrase "A Square."

(Illustration what is a square)

My prayer would be that all parents would be "The Keepers" of squares, & that all child & young people become "The Keepers" of a Square in their lives.

At beg our scrip we herd about sons Eli, at end herd about boy name Samuel.

The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord.

Here the real secret of life.

To be worth something U must know the Lord.

"And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Which will it be for U young people?

Which will it be for our children?

Do they know the Lord?

Do all of us know the Lord?

May all of our homes become the place where God is present,

and where Jesus Christ is evident in our lives, and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."

This supervision apply not only relig training, but secular life as well. 3/

We live more permissive society, than one which we raised.

Our childfaced more obstacles, tempts than we had This age more enlightened, more open.

Which more freedom make decisions, choices good/bad

So with all this permissive & openness, many parents too busy own lives raise child, & trust raising to society, schools, churches etc.

(Illustration disgruntled school teacher)

Talk with school teach, others school system, will reiterate what this one say.

It sad, but true.

But all goes back to home & what child receive the

If instructed how act, how behave school, public,

for most part will not disappoint parents.

1 point need be made, this directed young people all

child particularly.

Perhaps some what I say, turn u off,

Perhaps much what I say u not agree,

but biggest hassle young people, child, parents have today in area parental authority.

Many us raised home we expected do parents say, no backtalk,

Many us who parents decided we give child say so in matters discipline.

But unfortun 2 many young people taken this as license do as please, disobey, & when this happens, Mom Dad crack whip, young people rebel.

I believe all young people need learn respect wisdom of parents, learn there definite reasons parental decis

1 order be trusted, must prove trustworthy.

If told be in 11, be in that time.

If told clean room, do chores, take care these

things without nagging from parents.

And if parents say something no want ~~do~~ u do, be man lady enuf accept decis without cause W.W. III

All this bring us to point where we realize parents are "Keepers".

Sometimes I sure they wonder Keepers of what?

Are they Apes? Or other animal? Or wonderful

gifts from God known as children?

But in all this lies hidden, child keepers too

young people keepers life entrusted them, & to be keepers of all the fam has given them in any way.

"The Keepers!"

Text: I Samuel 2:12, & 26,

"Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord. And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Our text for this morning is taken from the reading of the 2nd chapter of I Samuel, the 12th verse and the 26th verse. These verses tell two entirely different stories. I prefer the King James Version for this particular reading.

(Read the verses)

~~Hannah, if you know the preceding story, was unable to have children~~  
of  
~~xxxxxxwent to the temple~~ Hannah was one of 2 wives ~~that~~ Elkanah. ~~And~~  
Peninnah the other wife was able to bear children and she even taunted Hannah because of her sterility. So on the ~~xxxxxx~~ yearly occasion when they went to the Temple in Shiloh Hannah went into the Temple and prayed to God that she would be blessed and have children. She promised God that she would dedicate the Son she was praying for to the service of the Lord. God heard her prayer and granted her a son. She named this Son Samuel, which means, "Name Of God," or, "His Name Is God."

So she took the boy to the Temple in Shiloh at an early age and she left him there under the guidance and direction of the priest Eli. Eli was a good man, but alas his sons were not. They kept the best meat for themselves instead of only taking a portion of the meat and giving the largest part to the worshiper of that which was not burned during the sacrifice. If they did not receive the best part willingly from the worshiper, they took it by force as we read in the scripture. ~~xxxxxxthen told of their~~

But then the author tells us about young Samuel, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. Which is to say that he wore a priestly garment and acted in the capacity as an assistant to the priest Eli.

Samuel's mother Hannah must have been a very good and loving mother, for we are told that each year she made a little coat for him and <sup>took</sup> brought



the coat to her son ~~each year~~ when she and ~~her husband~~ <sup>KENT</sup> his Father came to the yearly sacrifice. <sup>AT SHILOH.</sup>

The scripture tells us that Eli the priest blessed Hannah and Elkanah and pronounced the blessing upon Hannah that she would have more children because of the loan of Samuel to the Lord. And she did indeed have three more sons and two daughters. But the latter part of the 21st verse is the most significant of the entire scripture, "And the child Samuel, grew before the Lord."

In ancient Israel the word "Keeper" had several meanings. But one of the more common meanings was that as a guard over cattle or sheep. Abel was a "Keeper" of sheep as we read in the 4th chapter of Genesis. And I'm sure we all know the story of how Cain killed Abel in a fit of anger. We then read of God coming to Cain and inquiring as to the whereabouts of Abel. ~~The~~ Cain said, "I know not: am I my brothers keeper?"

Thus he was saying, "Am I the guard or the shepherd over my brother? Am I to be expected to look after him and care for him?" When we ponder this we realize of course that this saying has been carried down to us until today it is asked very often by people who are questioning their rightful relationship to people who are strangers to them. So we ask, "Am I my brothers keeper?"

If we apply this within our own families we know that we are our brothers keeper and our sisters keeper as well. But while we are concentrating our thoughts upon families we come today to look at one of the main reasons for families and this is children. Sons and daughters. We have looked at Mothers and Fathers, and now it is time we looked at children as part of the family.

<sup>LIKE ABOUT PLAY WHEN</sup>  
I was reading recently that we are coming back to the old ways of thinking concerning the raising of children. The author of the article pointed out that we had tried a generation or so of Dr. Spock and his

theory of sparing the rod. Most of you will recall of course that Dr. Spock wrote a book putting forth his belief that spanking or punishing a child was all wrong. His theory was that a child should be spoken to and there should never be any physical punishment. Well, his theory has caused some very unhealthy situations in our nation, and from the article I read, he supposedly has withdrawn his theory in favor of certain punishments for children. Unfortunately many people have not seen his public retraction, myself included, if indeed he did make such a retraction. It always bothers me that much sensational distorted news is spread over the front page of many newspapers throughout the nation. But when a retraction is needed because some of this news is incorrect or false, you need a magnifying glass to pick it out of the want-ads, or some other place where it is seldom seen.

~~But~~ <sup>A</sup> another eminent psychiatrist has said, "Children need rules and discipline for emotional health as much as they need bread and butter for physical health." Another man has said, "A child's character cannot be shaped by sudden accident."

Now all of this is to say that we who are parents, bear a grave responsibility in the raising of children. To begin with we do not own our children. They are merely loaned to us by God to raise to be productive people. We never own them any more than we own anything in this life. This then means that we are merely "Keepers" of children. We are in charge of their feeding, clothing, education, development, and all of the other things necessary to raise them to adulthood. This is a grave responsibility and many times ~~xxxxxxx~~ the graveness of the responsibility only dawns upon many parents ~~only~~ after the children have arrived upon the scene, and in some cases the awareness ~~is~~ strikes home when the children are fairly well grown. Sadly too, the awareness of parental responsibility sometimes never manifests itself in the lives of some parents and children are left to almost raise themselves. Needless to say this causes them many problems. Many times in my conversations with people who are either



outside the church or who are occasional church attenders, I am told that when the children reach the age whereby they are able to make decisions, they are then free to choose their own religion and their own church. This is a bad situation to say the least.

(Illustration of poet Coleridge)

~~This is one very good way of solving the problem but~~ The late J. Edgar Hoover ~~also~~ had something to say about this problem.

(Illustration of J. Edgar Hoover)

We as parents cannot afford to let our children choose everything they want to do. If we fed them in this manner, their diet would consist of ice cream and cake. Here then is where ~~xxx~~ the graveness of the situation lies. It does not mean we are to be complete dictators, but it does mean that we are to be shapers and molders of that character ~~xxxx~~ which God has entrusted to our care.

This supervision applies not only in the religious training of children but in the secular aspects of life as well. We are living in a much more permissive society than the one in which many of us were raised. Our children today are faced with many more obstacles and temptations than many of <sup>us</sup> had to face. This is due to the fact that our age is much more enlightened, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and much more open. ~~Everything~~ ~~is much more open and~~ there is much more freedom to make decisions and choices that are both good and bad. So with all of this permissiveness and openness many parents are too busy with their own lives to raise their children properly and the raising of them then becomes the responsibility of society. And with this responsibility comes many problems as well.

(Illustration of disgruntled school teacher, #325 2400 illust.)

Talk with ~~many~~ school teachers, or anyone connecting with our schools and many of them will reiterate what this woman has said. Its sad, but it is true. So it all goes back to the home and what the children are receiving there. If they are instructed how to act and how to behave in



school and in public, then for the most part they will not disappoint their parents.

There are so many other areas of parental responsibility, we could not possibly hope to cover them in one sermon alone.

But ~~there is~~ one final point that needs to be made, and this is directed particularly to all children and young people individually. This does not mean that you parents are to not listen, but for the next few moments I would like to address the young people here this morning.

Perhaps some of what I have said has turned you off. Perhaps much of what I have said you do not particularly agree with. But the biggest hassle all children, young people and parents have today, is in the area of parental authority. Many of us were raised in a home where we were expected to do what our parents said, without any backtalk. But many of us who are parents have decided that we would like our children to have some say so in matters of discipline. But unfortunately, too many young people have taken this as a license to do as they please and to disobey, and when this happens, then Mom and Dad begin to crack the whip and the young people rebel. I believe that all young people should again learn to respect the wisdom of parents which comes with age, and to learn that there are definite reasons for parental decisions. In order to be trusted by parents, you, the young people must ~~be worthy~~ prove worthy of this trust. This means that if you are expected to be in by 11:00, that you are in by that time. If you are expected to keep your room tidy, or to look after a few chores around the house, that you take care of these things without parental nagging. And if your parents say that there is something they do not want you to do, then you should be man or lady enough to accept their decision without causing World War III.

Now all of this brings us to the point where we realize that parents are "Keepers", and sometimes I am sure they wonder just what they are "Keepers" of. Are they apes? Or are they those wonderful gifts from God

known as children?

But also in all of this ~~xxxxxx~~ lies hidden the fact that children are "Keepers" as well. They are the "Keepers" of living the life that has been entrusted to them, and to ~~live~~ be "Keepers" of all that the family has given them in any way.

The ideal child or young person is something all parents would like to raise. This ~~ideal~~ ideal has been called many things. By the young people who probably have a secret yearning inside of them to be like this ideal boy or girl, they have coined the ~~new~~ phrase "A Square." What is a ~~Square~~ Square?

(Illustration of A Square)

My prayer would be that all parents would be ~~xxxxxxx~~ "The Keepers" of Squares, and that all children and young people would become "The Keepers" of a Square in their lives. ~~But all of this is only possible through living each day in the strength that comes from God, through Jesus Christ in our lives. May all of our homes become the place where God is present, and Jesus Christ is evident in our lives, and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."~~

At the very beginning of our Scripture we heard about the sons of the priest Eli, and at the very end of that Scripture, we heard about a boy named Samuel. "The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord." Here is the real secret of life. To be worth something we must "know the Lord." "And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Which will it be for you young people? Which will it be for our children? Do they know the Lord? Do all of us know the Lord? Mayball of our homes become the place where God is present, and where Jesus Christ is evident in our lives, and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."

The hour is coming and now is, when the true wor-  
shippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,  
for such the Father seeks to worship Him.  
Go is spirit, and those who worship Him, must wor-  
ship in ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST spirit & truth  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PENTECOST JUNE 2, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODI MARTE, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" READ  
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNN

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 322 "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

\*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL,  
WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE  
FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO  
ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO  
THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US  
FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASEING TO  
THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS  
AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND,  
WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY  
AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 2: 1-21

HYMN No. 188 "HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

\*FERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO"

KUHLAN

ANTHEM: "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT" - WOMENS CHORUS - DYKES

SERMON: "FILLED UP!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 193 "SPIRIT OF GOD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" DUNN

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. ANN WILLIAMS IN MEMORY OF "HUSBAND" - WOODY.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT

THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER,

LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD 525, MRS. HOMER  
BEATTY 624. PVT. KEITH TAIT, TRIPLER ARMY HOSPITAL,  
AFO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96438.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ALTEMUS - FORMER  
CHERYL (GILLILAND) ON A NEW BABY GIRL - NOW LIVING IN  
EVANS CITY.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS.  
W. A. (GLADYS) WINTERS WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK. *ALL*  
MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING. *MR.*

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE *McClintock's*

ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC PICNIC \* MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - 6:00 -

ON JUNE 14 - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED.

MONDAY - JUNE 10 - 7:30 P.M. - MRS. ARTHUR HAUSER WILL  
BE HERE FOR A TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE. ALL OFFICERS,  
TEACHERS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO BE  
HERE.

TODAY IS PENTECOST - A TIME TO REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO INSPIRED THE FIRST APOSTLES  
AND WHO EMPOWERS THE CHURCH TODAY TO CARRY ON CHRIST'S  
WORK. A PAMPHLET "TIME TO REJOICE!" WILL BE DISTRIB-  
UTED TODAY ALONG WITH THE BULLETIN FROM THE STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL. IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THE GENERAL  
SYNOD HAS ASKED CONGREGATIONS TO OBSERVE PENTECOST  
AS A TIME OF SPECIAL FOCUS ON OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD  
MISSION.

*Attendance - 243*



But I firmly believe we need accept that which cannot completely understand as sovereignty & majesty of God. J said, "With God all things possible," this we need accept & believe.

We need understand speak in tongues what really mean if he misused & questioned seriously today. When disc given gift on Pent was so could speak others own language they understood. Speak tongues move still prevalent today. This in church we call Pentecostal. Much this not legitimate, many peop supposedly speak tongue, speak gibberish, & many peop interp really do not.

Most peop question validity with good reason. If we ask quest why we no have speak tongue today, also need ask, "Why we need it?"

Would prove anything if I spoke German, Greek etc this morning?

Course not, & this answer.

God want me speak Eng. cause that we speak. There cases on record recent group worshipers, one speak foreign tongue.

When checked person no took language school, & further check show person there speak that language. Thus the foreign tongue so they understand.

(illustration Florida, Italian, Spanish, German)

Real purpose speak tongue, to spread Gospel Js Xp. & not show off how wonderful they were.

What made all possible was indwell Holy Sp.

They peop literally filled Holy Sp.

Fact so filled, peop that drunk

To which Pete explained only 9:00 AM & impossible be drunk

He went on explain this manifestation of Sp, which Js predict.

E. Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Xmas festival of God with us; Pent is God in us."

To which add quest, "Is God more with us, than in us?"

Good quest. If God more in us, we literally filled Up.

Filled Up with Sp.

Must remember cannot fill selves,

This only done by God

We must put selves in the position to be filled. When talk be filled Sp, must realize no one set way happen everyone.

### "Filled Up!"

Text: Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Today Pentecost,

This from Greek PENTECOSTOS, meaning 50th.

At Pentecost 50 days after Passover AD 30, it fell on ~~May~~ Sunday May 28th.

Tradition has it 1st Pentecost took place Upper Room

In 1st chap read they assembled there

2nd chap read, "They were all together."

& while they thus assembled, "There came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting."

Greek word wind is PNEUMA which mean air or breath.

Perhaps you caught English word taken from it,

Pneumatic which compressed air,

or Pneumonia which respiratory disease.

If use word in sense ~~xxxxxxx~~ rush of air as Breath, then we can see it Breath of God, that came into midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the H Sp. and began to speak in other tongues, as the Sp gave them utterance."

What took place was phenomenon never fully explained. Barclay passes off as unintelligible gibberish.

Dave Alexander in Erdmans Handbook of Bible, "Normally the Apostles difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone in this mixed audience heard own language being spoken."

The Galilean dialect was uniquely identifiable

We read this in Luke account Peter denial Js

man accuse Peter being with Js stating,

"Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

Peters speech gave him away.

But if really want know what took place, we must read scripture reference for self.

Scripture states very plainly all of these Jews who had been living in all parts then known world, all spoke different languages.

They were now being spoken to by these Galileans in their own native tongue and not in Aramaic or Hebrew

Barclay & all other interpreters who want explain away mighty power of God, may do so.

Being filled Sp manifests self diff ways, diff peop/  
Look at Apostles, see in them vast diff exist in  
ministry & lives

Pete altogether diff person than Paul  
But Pete just as effective in own way as Paul  
Stephen diff Timothy Barnabas.

Look diff Matthew, John

Each lived, worked Js, yet Gospels tell diff story  
diff things want impart about Him.

This good examp H. Sp working each person unique  
diff way.

So when speak H. Sp, many good Xpians not completely  
aware what being said.

Because too long they thot of H Sp something myster  
ious and elusive,

& this only evident minister, missionary lives  
But what not really understood believers, is that  
when become followers Js Xp, He become part of lives  
& then H Sp which really another manifestation of  
God, begin work live our hearts.

This motivate us, move us do things right, proper  
& good.

Small inner voice tells help others, resist evil,  
live better way, that H sp God in U

We each here have H Sp working, living us,  
& all we needdo make more real, more evident, is  
recognize He there.

Then must seek follow more what tells do.

Other words, H. Sp. not something cannot compre

But it God within, seeking motivate do right  
' be more instrument for Him

H Sp came many ways, many peop diff ways

Could name many this AM

But would like tēal one man much used of God &  
how H Sp came to work in his life.

(Illustration William Booth)

Today may be just nother day many peop in many  
diff churches.

Sadly enuf it day often overlook in haste observe  
all secular days crept into church calendar.

This day soon over as each day draws close, But  
perhaps need bow before God this AM & pray as man  
prayed,

"O God, do it again. Do it again. Fill even me  
with your Holy Spirit & let me be completely Filled  
Up, even as those men of old. O God, do it again!"

## Text: Acts 2:4a, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

The opening events must have taken place there, and the remainder of the events must have been out of doors. In the 1st chapter they are assembled in the upper room. We read in the 2nd chapter "they ~~xxx~~ were all together." And while they are thus assembled "there came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting." The word for this wind is Pneuma which means either air or breath. You may recognize it as being a part of the English word which has to do with compressed air pneumatic, or pneumonia, which has to do with ~~compressed air~~, a disease of the respiratory organs. If we use the word in the sense that it is Breath, then we can see that this rush of a mighty wind was the very "Breath of God" that came upon them and into their midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. What took place was a phenomenon that has never been fully explained. Barclay passes it off as being some sort of unintelligible gibberish. David Alexander in Eerdmans Handbook of the Bible states, "Normally the Apostles' difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone ~~in~~ in this mixed ~~group~~ audience heard his own language being spoken." The Galilean ~~speech~~ dialect was uniquely identifiable. We can read of this in Luke's account of Peter's denial of Jesus, when a man accused Peter of



being with Jesus by stating, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." Peter's speech had given him away. ~~Thus it is not possible that this group of Galileans were~~ But if we really want to know what took place, we need to take the Scripture reference and read it for ourselves. The Scripture states very plainly that all of these ~~people~~ Jews who had been living in different parts of the then known world, and who all spoke different languages, were being spoken to by these Galileans in their own native tongue and not in Aramaic.

Barclay and all of the other interpreters who want to explain away the mighty power of God may do so. But I firmly believe that we need to accept that which we cannot completely understand as the sovereignty and majesty of Almighty God. Jesus said, "With God all things are possible," and this we need to believe and accept.

We need to understand what speaking in tongues really means because it has been misused and is questioned very seriously today. When the Disciples were given this gift on Pentecost it was so that they could speak to others in the language that they understood. The speaking in tongues movement is still prevalent today in what we know as the Pentecostal churches. But much of this is not legitimate, because the people who supposedly are speaking in tongues are merely speaking a gibberish that someone supposedly interprets. Most people question the validity of this and with good reason. If we ask the question why we do not have speaking in tongues today, we need to also ask why we would need it? Would it prove anything this morning if I were to begin speaking to you in Latin or Greek? Of course not, and this is the answer. God does not want me to talk to you in anything except English, because this is what we speak and what we understand. There have been cases <sup>ON RECORD RECENTLY</sup> that ~~I have read about~~ where a person in a group of worshipers will suddenly <sup>OR SOME OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGE</sup> begin to speak in French or Latin, and when it was checked into the person who spoke <sup>WORKING IN THEM</sup> had never taken the language in school, and upon further checking it was learned that there were people <sup>FOREIGN BORN LANGUAGE</sup> there who could not speak English and thus the ~~French or Latin~~ was beneficial to them and they were able to hear

the Gospel in their native tongue.

The real purpose of this speaking in tongues was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not to show off how wonderful they were. What made it all possible was the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, and they were people who were literally filled with the Spirit. In fact they were so filled, they were accused of being drunk. To which Peter gave them the answer that it was only 9:00 AM and impossible for them to be drunk. He went on to explain that this was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus Christ.

E Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Christmas is the festival of God with us; Pentecost is God in us." To which he adds the question, "Is God more with us than in us?" Which is a very good question, for if God is more in us ~~than we are filled~~ then we can be literally filled up. Filled up with the Spirit. But we must remember that we cannot fill ourselves, this can only be done by God. So then we must put ourselves in the way of being filled.

But when we talk of being filled up with the Spirit, we must realize that this is not just one set thing that happens to everyone. Being filled up with the Spirit manifests itself in different ways in different people. Look at the Apostles and see in them the vast differences that existed in their ministries and lives. Peter was an altogether different person than Paul. But Peter was just as effective in his own way as Paul. Stephen was different from Timothy or Barnabas. Look at the vast difference between Matthew, ~~John Mark~~, and ~~the Apostle~~ John. Each of them lived and worked with Jesus and yet their Gospels tell an altogether different story of Jesus and the things they wanted to impart about Him. This is a good example of how the Holy Spirit works in each person in a unique and different way.

So when we speak of the Holy Spirit, many good Christians are not completely aware of what is being said, because for too long they have thought of the Holy Spirit as something mysterious and elusive that is only evident ~~in the lives of preachers~~



in the lives of preachers and missionaries. But ~~the secret of this~~ what is not really under-

stood by believers, is that when we become followers of Jesus Christ, He then becomes a part of our lives, and the Holy Spirit which is really ~~and~~ only another manifestation of God, ~~this~~ begins to live within our hearts and motivates us and moves us to do those things that are right and proper and good. That small inner voice that tells you to help others, to ~~be~~ resist evil, to live in a better way, that is the Holy Spirit of God in you. We each of us here this morning have the Holy Spirit working and living in us, and all we need to do to make Him more real and more evident in our lives is to recognize He is there, and seek to follow more of what He tells us to do. In other words the Holy Spirit is not something we cannot comprehend, but it is God within us seeking to motivate us to do right and to be more of an instrument for Him.

The Holy Spirit has come to many people in many different ways. We could name numerous people this morning, but I would merely like to tell you of a man who <sup>was</sup> much used of God, and how he came to have the Holy Spirit work in his life.

(Illustration of William Booth)

Today may be just another day to many people in many different churches. Sadly enough it is a day that we often overlook in our haste to observe all of the other secular days that have crept into our church calendars. Pentecost will soon be over just as ~~all~~ each day draws to a close. But perhaps we need to bow before God this morning and pray as that man prayed, "O God, do it again. Do it again. Fill even me with your Holy Spirit and let me be completely filled up even as those men of old. O God, do it again."



But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 9, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODIE MARTE, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E" SERGISSON  
"THE HOUR OF WORSHIP" COFFMAN

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 185 "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"  
\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ESTHER 4

HYMN No. 191 "BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "OFFERTORY" WELLS

BAPTISM: ERIC CHRISTOPHER HOLLEFREUND - SON OF  
MR. & MRS. THOMAS HOLLEFREUND

PIANO DUET: "SALUT D'AMOUR" ELGAR

KITTY FEDER AND MARILYN STEPHENSON

SERMON: "WHO KNOWS?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

SINGS"

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 280 "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" BROADHEAD

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY CLARA AND FLORENCE SHAKELY IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES". SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY AND STEVE VARGO.

ELDER ROBERT TAIT WILL BE AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE CREDIT FOR CHURCH SCHOOL AND A PERFECT ATTENDANCE PIN - BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX UNDER CORRECT DATE.

➤ TODAY - WE NEED A COUPLE OF MEN TO HELP SET UP FOUR TABLES IN THE UNDERCROFT FOR THE TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE ON MONDAY NIGHT.

➤ MONDAY - 7:30 - GOSPEL OF LIGHT TEACHER'S COURSE - MRS. ARTHUR HOUSER WILL BE HERE FOR A TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE. ALL OFFICERS, TEACHERS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO BE HERE.

➤ FRIDAY - 6:00 - ARC PICNIC IN THE PARK - MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED - DAN BOSKO'S IN CHARGE. **ARTEC**

➤ HOSPITALIZED - MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD AND MRS. HOMER BEATTY.

➤ TODAY - WE HAVE NEW LIVING FERNS ON THE ALTAR - WHICH WERE PLACED BY DONN E. MILLER AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO HIS "MOTHER" MRS. DOROTHY KALO MILLER. DONN HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR OUR CHURCH, AND NOW HE NEEDS OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS, AND HOPE HE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO WORK SOON FROM A SERIOUS BACK INJURY. HIS ADDRESS IS: 6282 BARRADOS AVE., CYPRESS, CALIF. 90630.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR FOR THE ARC CLASS ARE AVAILABLE. YOU MAY PICK THEM UP IN THE OFFICE OR FROM AN OFFICER OF THE CLASS. DON'T FORGET TO CALL THE BRUCE MCBRIDE'S 283-8980 NOW FOR RESERVATIONS - FAMILY CAMPING - AUG. 9, 10, 11 - OPEN TO CHURCH.

kings serves question Mord about this  
 He merely answer he Jew  
 These serves go Haman & tell, he become furious.  
 B not content kill only Mord, he devise scheme  
 whereby all Jews be killed  
 He plot have all Jews in Persia killed.  
 According popular conception of time, & this of  
 Babylon origin, there cert time place do things.  
 Book Ecclesiastes tells this well  
 Haman casts lots to determine when this destruction  
 of Jews take place  
 Calendar that time ran spring til next spring.  
 Reason, ritual Passover take precedence all else  
 Yr begin mid March which called month of Nisan,  
 So in month Nisan or mid March to Mid April in yr  
 473 BC lots cast for destruction Jews  
 Day for destruct fell 13th day 12th month which  
 called Adar, & was from Mid Feb - mid March.  
 Haman went king news certain race peop, he no name,  
 had own laws, & no observe royal edicts.  
 He promise pay 10 M talents silver to treasury if  
 king give edict have peop killed. *18 M. 1000*  
 king naturally no want enemies in kingdom agrees  
 2 destruct, but tell Haman keep money as reward  
 getting rid these peop.  
 2 show good faith he give signet ring as pledge.  
 Thus we come point where Scrip began this morn  
 Mord sitting in gate, sackcloth ashes  
 Es learns this sends serves with clothes, & inquire  
 why he do this  
 Mord tell serves tell Es what take place, & since  
 she Q, tell king this grave injustice.  
 Es sends serv back tell Mord even sh not permitted  
 appear 4 king unless he send for her  
 Mord tells them ans they 2 give Es,  
 (quote Text here)  
 & it from this reasoning of Mord that Es sees her  
 tru role this instance, & she send word bak she go  
 be4 king unbidden  
 & she say, "If I perish, I perish."  
 Peop have questioned whether this tru story.  
 many quest ion whether it deal with anything worth  
 This quest cause in 10 chaps, God no mention/while  
 But if U read book with exaress purpose try see  
 what message God inspired, then I believe U will  
 see purpose of book

# "Who Knows?"

Text: Esther 4:13,14, answer  
 "When Mordecai told them to return to Esther. Think  
 not that in the king's palace you will escape any  
 more than all the other Jews. For if you keep  
 silence at such a time as this, relief and deliver-  
 ance will rise for the Jews from another quarter,  
 but you and your father's house will perish. And  
 who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom  
 for such a time as this?"  
 Today, next Sun serms will be from OT Esther  
 U herd me urge you read Bibs from time to time.  
 These serms result re-reading Esther 3rd  
 1st 2 times I read, no ideas came to me.  
 Last few weeks reading thru, 2 vivid things  
 almost leap out at me from pages.  
 This the valu reading Bibs  
 U may read same passage over & over & never new  
 thot concerning them,  
 But may re-read & new & diff meaning come 2 U this  
 This also H Sp within which we spoke last wk /way  
 2 Understand what take place Scrip this morn  
 We need go over sum background 1st 3 chaps  
 Esther orphan, raised by cousin Mordecai  
 Es & Mord were Jews  
 King Persia Ahasuerus or Xerxes I (Greek name)  
 had thrown sever banquets, & during one bang  
 sent serves to have queen make appear be4 peop  
 Queen Vashti beatiful woman, & king wanted her  
 show off finery.  
 But Q refuse come 4ward from quarters & king ang  
 This point he call on advisors inquire what do  
 They advised wite up decree stating Q. Vashti ban-  
 ished from position & nother Q to be chosen  
 So all beautiful ladies in kingdom brot to king  
 from which he choose new Q  
 Among them Es  
 She find favor his sight, she selected be new Q  
 King not ask nationality, & Mord tell not reveal  
 In court of king 2 conspirators plotted slay king  
 Mord at palace & sit in gate, tell Es, she tell  
 king, thus Mord save kings life  
 King Ahasuerus appoint man name Haman Prime Minister  
 All princes, all serves of king commanded by K to bow  
 All bow but Mord.

U here cause God wants U be here  
Therefore we need determine what is God has in store  
for us.  
(The answer to question, "Who Knows?", is that God  
knows.

So must ask, "For what purpose we here?"  
(The answer of course is to look to God to determine  
this.

We must come God prayer, meditation & let Him  
speak to us individually as to why we here.

We not to be just attenders his church, but we to  
be workers & builders His kingdom.

We can only determine this by seeking His answer  
Js said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen  
You."

By this we know we placed here this moment, this  
time, this locale by will of Almighty God.

Who Knows? God knows.

& it only striving live this life thru Js Xp as  
Lord & Saviour we have answers to Whos, & Whats  
& Whys of life.

Let Him reign supreme in Your life, & then U  
will know too.

Woven thruout book is knowledge that God having  
hand in lives each character involved.

If U ask if I believe really happened, Yes I do  
(Archaeological findings prove king Persia & other  
things 2 show actual history)

In 1 commentary quest ask why Mord not bow down Haman  
& it give no answer.

If we know Jewish history well enuf we know  
real Jew no bow down anyone cept God.

This in obed to 1st 3 commands

If we look each part story we see working of God

1st Q put away 4 refusal ~~xxxxxxx~~ obey king

Then along come Es & what she? Of all things Jew

1 God's chosen peop

Them who save life king? Mord another Jew

Thus we see God working affairs of man, even  
tho not always evident.

Recently we been hearing awful lot Satan & demons

This story good examp Satan work lives of peop

He worked way into hart Haman, & he determine

destroy God's peop.

Why Satan want do this?

For simple reason from Isr. to come Messiah,  
the deliverer of God's peop

Thus if Satan could thwart this plan, he could nip  
in bud plan of God, & God no voercome Him

But if we see God in control & He placed Es & Mord  
at this point in time to be woman & man of hour

The quest Mord poses to Es should make all pnder  
our relationship to God,

"And who knows whether u have not cometo the kingdom  
for such a time as this?"

(Look at hist. of Isrlites down to present age,

Starting Noah ask 1st man of hr delivring peop

Then Abe, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon & on

Time/after/time/ peop inspired by Satan to destr

Gods peop, but time/after/time/ been thwarted.

Because God raised men women of hr

In own day been Hitler, Stalin, Kruschev.

At present Breshnev, Egypt, Arabs.

In each instance God raised men, women of hr.

" " " could ask, "Who knows whether those  
who have delivered peop, had not come to the king-

dom for such a time as this?"

(When put in this lite, we realize each have set time  
& set purpose for being in existence.

U not an accident upon God's landscape.



"Who Knows?"

Text: "Then Mordecai told them to return answer to Esther, "Think not that in the king's palace you will escape anymore than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise from the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?""

Today and next Sunday our sermons will be taken from the Old Testament book of Esther. You have heard me urge you to read your Bibles from time ~~xxx~~ to time. These sermons are a result of re-reading the book of Esther for the third time. The first two times I read it, no ideas came to me. But just ~~this~~ in the last few weeks I was reading it through, and two very vivid things in this book seemed to leap out at me from its pages. This is the value of reading your Bibles. You may read the same passages over and over and never have a new thought concerning them, but you may re-read them again and have a new and different meaning come to you in this manner. This is also the work of the Holy Spirit within you which we spoke about last week.

To understand what is taking place in our Scripture for this morning, we need to go over some of the background of the first 3 chapters. ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Esther was an orphan who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ had been raised by a Cousin named Mordecai. Esther and Mordecai were Jews. The king of Persia King Ahasuerus or King Xerxes I which was his Greek name, had thrown several banquets and during one of the banquets he had sent his servants to have the queen make a public appearance before the people. Queen Vashti was a very beautiful woman and the king wanted to show her off in all her finery. But the queen refused to come forward from her quarters and the king was very angry.

At this point he called upon his advisers to inquire as to what he should do. They advised him to write up a decree stating that Queen Vashti was banished from her position and that another queen would be chosen in her stead. So all of the beautiful young ladies in the kingdom were brought to the king ~~xx~~ from which he was to choose a new queen.

Among these young ladies was Esther. Esther found favor in the sight of the king and she was selected to be the new queen. The king did not ask her nationality and Mordecai had instructed her not to reveal it.

In the court of the king there ~~xxx~~ were two conspirators who plotted to slay the king. Mordecai who was at the palace and sat at the king's gate, gave Esther this message which she relayed to the king and the king had them arrested. Thus Mordecai had saved the life of the king.

King Ahasuerus appointed a man named Haman as his Prime Minister. Now Haman had the control over and above all of the princes of the court of the king. All of the princes and all of the servants of the king were commanded by the king to bow to Haman. But we read that Mordecai did not bow to Haman. The king's servants who were at the gate where Mordecai was, spoke to him about this and questioned why he did not bow to Haman. Mordecai merely answered that he was a Jew.

So these servants went to Haman and told him of this and Haman became furious. But Haman in his anger, was not content to merely have Mordecai slain, and thus he devised a scheme whereby all of the Jews would be killed. He plotted to have the ~~xxx~~ entire Jewish nation in Persia killed. Now according to a popular conception of that time, and this is of Babylonian origin, there was a certain time and place to do everything. The book of Ecclesiastes points this out very well. So Haman had lots cast to determine when this destruction of the Jews was to take place.

The calendar at that time ran from spring until the next spring. This was because the ritual of Passover took precedence over everything else. The year thus began in the middle of March which was called the month of Nisan. So in the month of Nisan or ~~March~~ the middle of March to the middle of April, lots were cast for the destruction of the Jews. The day for this destruction fell to the 13th day of the 12th month which was called Adar, and was from mid February to Mid March.

Then Haman went to the king with the news that a certain race of people



which he did not name, had its own laws and did not observe the royal edicts, and he promised the king he would pay 10,000 talents of silver or about 18 million dollars into the treasury if the king would give the edict to have these people killed. The king naturally not wanting to have enemies within his kingdom agrees to their destruction, but he tells Haman he can keep the money he would have donated to the treasury as a reward for getting rid of these people. To show his good faith he gives him his signet ring as a pledge of his faith in Haman.

Thus we arrive at the point where our scripture began this morning where Mordecai is sitting at the king's gate in sackcloth and ashes. Esther learns of this and sends a servant to Mordecai with clothing, and to inquire why he is doing this. Mordecai tells the servant to tell Esther the story, of what is to take place, and since she is the queen to tell the king of this grave injustice. Esther sends the servant back to Mordecai to tell him that even she is not permitted to appear before the king unless he sends for her.

Mordecai tells them the answer they are to give to Esther. He says, "Think not in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at ~~xxxxxxx~~ such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

And it is from this reasoning of Mordecai that Esther sees her true role in this instance and she sends word back to him that she will go before the king unbidden to come forward and she says, "If I perish, I perish."

People have questioned whether this is a true story, and whether it deals with anything worthwhile. Most of the questioning has been because throughout the 10 brief chapters of the book, not once is the name of God used. But if you read the book with the express purpose of trying to see that inspired message God is trying to impart, then I believe you will see the purpose of the book. Woven throughout all of this story is the knowledge that God was having a hand in the lives of each of the characters involved.



If you ask if I believe it really happened, the answer is yes I do.

Archaeological findings have confirmed not only the king of Persia mentioned in the story, but many other things that show it is actual history.

In one commentary I read the question <sup>WAS ASKED</sup> why Mordecai did not bow down to Haman, to which it did not give an answer. But if we know Jewish history well enough we know that a real Jew would not bow down to anyone except <sup>first 3</sup> God. This was in obedience to the <sup>1</sup> commandments.

If we look at each part of this story we can see the working of God. First the queen was put away because of her refusal to obey the king. Then along comes Esther and what is she? Of all things she is a Jewess, one of God's chosen people. Then who is it who saves the life of the king? Mordecai another Jew. Thus we can see that God is working in the affairs of man even though ~~we cannot always see it.~~ <sup>IT IS NOT ALWAYS EVIDENT.</sup>

Recently we have been hearing an awful lot about Satan and demons. Well this story is a good example of the working of Satan in the lives of people. Satan had worked his way into the heart of Haman, and Haman was determined to destroy the people of Israel. Now why would Satan want to do this? Well, for the simple reason that from Israel was to come the Messiah, the deliverer of God's people. Thus if Satan could thwart this plan, if he could nip it in the bud, then God could not overcome Satan. But we see in each instance that God is in control and that He had placed Esther and Mordecai at this point in time to be His woman and man of the hour. The question that Mordecai poses to Esther is one that should make all of us ponder our relationship to God, when he asks, "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Look at the history of the Israelites right down to our present day. starting with Noah as the first one to be the man of the hour in delivering the people. Then Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon and on and on. Time after time, people have been inspired by Satan to destroy God's people, but time after time they have been thwarted. <sup>BECAUSE GOD HAS RAISED UP MEN & WOMEN OF THE HOUR</sup> In our own day it

has been Hitler, and Stalin, and Krushchev. Right now it is Breshnev, and ypt and the Arabs. But in each and every instance God has raised up men and women of the hour. In each instance we could well ask, "Who knows whether those who have delivered these people had not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

When we put it in this light, we realize that we each have a set time and a set purpose for being in existence. You are not an accident upon God's landscape. You are here because God wants you to be here. Therefore we need to determine just what it is that God has in store for <sup>us</sup> ~~me~~. The ~~question then changes from being "Who knows?", because the answer is that~~ <sup>ANSWER</sup> ~~God knows~~ to the question "Who Knows?", is that God knows. So then we need to ask "For what purpose are we here?" The answer of course is for us to look to God in determining this. WE must come to God in prayer and meditation, and let Him speak to us individually as to why we are here.

We are not to be just attenders of His church, but we are to be workers and builders of His kingdom, and ~~that~~ we can only determine where we fit in by seeking His answer. ~~km~~ Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." By this we know that we are placed at this moment, at this time, in this locale by the will of Almighty God. "Who Knows?" God knows, and it is only by striving to live this life through Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior that we can have the answers to the Who's, and Why's and What's of life. Let Him reign supreme in your life and then you too will know.

I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,  
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 16, 1974  
FATHER'S DAY

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
FAM FRY, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E" BACH  
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNES

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 314 "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"

\*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE POWER  
TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL, HEAR US AS WE CONFESS OUR SINS.  
WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE FAILED THEE AND OURSELVES. REGARDLESS  
OF HOW GOOD WE HAVE BEEN, WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN  
THE KIND OF PERSON THAT YOU WANT US TO BE. SOMETIMES OUR  
BELIEF IN OUR OWN GOODNESS HAS PREVENTED US FROM SEEING  
OUR SINFULNESS. WE HAVE FELT THAT ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAS  
MADE US BETTER THAN OTHERS. OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO  
OUR HIDDEN SINS, AS WE MAKE A SINCERE AND HUMBLE CONFESSION  
IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND FOSTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*FACTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ESTHER 6

HYMN No. 198 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*FACTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*FACTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO" SCOTT  
SOLO: CYNIDIE SYBERT

SERMON: "GOD'S NO-DOZE!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 292 "ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" D'AUDEL

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. DAVE CURTIS IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES"

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*DON KINGSLEY, DARYL

TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. MIKE NAZARUK WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT  
AND FAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD, MRS. MARTHA

DEREWESKI, ROMH, MRS. JOAN VOGEL - PRES. HOSP. PITTS.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY BE SURE AND SIGN

THE GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

DON'T FORGET TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. & MRS. BRUCE

MURRIDE 283-8980 FOR RESERVATIONS IF YOU PLAN TO

GO CAMPING AUG. 9, 10, 11 - THIS FAMILY CAMPING DATE

IS OPEN TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH.

ARC - PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE

PLEASE PICK YOUR COPY UP.

THE RESPONSE TO THE TAPES HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS - MANY

HAVE BEEN PLACED AS MEMORIALS, OTHERS BOUGHT TO BE

PLACED IN HOMES OF SHUT-INS. MEMORIALS WILL BE

PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS AND/OR

CONFIRMATION CAMP?

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 185.

CONGRATULATIONS! TO TERRY MCGARRAH - HE IS NOW

OFFICIALLY SIGNED WITH THE PIRATES, - GOOD LUCK.

THEOS PROGRAM COMING TO BUTLER. THERE IS A DEFINITE

NEED FOR A SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

FOR THE WIDOWED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CHURCH.

LOOKING TOWARD THIS GOAL, AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL GROUP

CALLED THEOS IS BEING ORGANIZED IN BUTLER. IT WILL

BE SPONSORED BY ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH THE

CO-OPERATION OF MANY CHURCHES. FIRST MEETING JUNE 26,

AT 8:00 P.M. ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH BASEMENT.

FURTHER INFO FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



Very peop he deliberate set destroy, very easily 2/  
end up destroy him.

U may read remain portion book find out happen to  
Haman.

Only 10 chaps & fascinating reading

Here we confront unique set events

When start out simple plan exterminate pest to 1  
indiv & ward off others of group become loathsome,  
now thickened into plot of mystery intrigue

When we analyse events this story we C plainly hand  
of Al. God in backgr, using simple means accomplish  
overthrow Satan & evil against His peop.

At beg. chap we C something spectacular we prone  
overlook completely.

1st vs reads, "On that night the king could not sleep  
King could not sleep.

How simple, yet how profound

Most instances, most peop's minds not say much  
When look sleeplessness of king doesn't have much  
effect on us.

Here an indiv wealth, power, position, prestige,  
& he afflicted common malady effect many his peop.

We tempted say, "So what?"

Is it coincidence?

Is merely monarch with insomnia?

I think not. I see in this examp how God will step  
into life of person & cause His plan be set in motion

I sure all seen commercial TV advertise pills when  
drive no get sleepy, No-Doze.

Here an examp God's No-Doze.

It not pill or tablet,

It merely God step in & disturb person sleep

When we contemplate that God does not need always do  
large things, spectacular things accomplish purpose,  
we cannot help be overawed His power & majesty.

Dr. Murray write poem about this,

(Illustration power of God)

There may be emps & rulers, may always be kings

such as king in Persia time of Est.

But rulers & kings come & go, but always there

will be x God.

& God will always step in to work His purpose

out.

G has disturbed sleep of peop too numerous mention  
in each instance there was set meaning, purpose that  
was shown thru lives of peop involved.  
(Illustration of woman letting go)

"God's No-Doze!"

Text: Esther 6:1,

"On that night the king could not sleep; and he gave  
orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the  
chronicles, and they were read before the king."

(Illustration of church members trying to reform man  
This good examp Rob. Burns quote, "The best laid  
plans of mice and men often go awry.")

Scrip read morn, nother examp of this

Last Sun we look plot Haman destroy all Jews,  
& today we look what transpire after Haman set plan  
in motion

We read king unable sleep, decide read, make sleepy  
book he chose read, book events happening kingdom,  
like read reminisce scrapbook.

From book servant read incident slip king mind

This involve Mord. get info to king about plot

kill king, king kill 2 perpetrators

The king ask servants if Mord reward for this,

They tell no

Now Haman came court early that morn

King ask who there, told Haman

King call in Haman, Prime Minister to conference

Haman stand before king, king ask,

"What shall be done to the man whom the king de-

lights to honor?"

Haman impressed with self-importance, naturally im-  
pressed with self, thinks king means him.

He say self, "Whom would the king delight to honor

more than me?"

So he give king instructions what he think should be  
done, think all along honors belong to him.

Can U imagine shock Haman felt, & sense disappoint  
when he discover man Mord?

Imagine that? Mord the Jew, only pers in king

court who no bow to him.

This ~~stutter~~ nerve to ignore Prime Min. Haman

This lesson remind us story Js tell follow about

banquet & take low seat, perhaps be honored

This exact position Haman find self this time.

Poor Haman can only swallow pride see Mord honored

When read end chap Haman go home mourn fact he no

onger #1 man in kingdom, he not exclusive VIP

Wife & advisers instead sympathize, rub salt in

wounds, predict perhaps little world tumble around

ears.

Here common examp of this.

I say common because all it takes is that person  
let God work his/her life

( ) mean try see just what God try say/do thru us.

(Illustration newsboy San Fran)

God too powerful 4 any 1 to beat or best

We need not only know His sovereignty/majesty/  
supremacy over all, but need seek ~~His power~~ Him  
in our lives.

We need let God give each us His No-Doze.

By this I mean we need make selves available Him  
to make use of us,

whether middle night, or middle day.

If we should find selves some nite rub ~~our~~

elbows ancient king Persia, in that we cannot  
sleep, perhaps God try tell us something or want  
us do something.

We need attune lives to God & let Him show us in  
whatever way He wishes what He wants us do.

Seek God all things, but to remain alert & awake,  
take God's No-Doze.

"God's No-Doze!"

Text: Esther 6:1, "On that night the king could not sleep; and he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king."

(Illustration of John Smith & church members trying to scare him into reform)

Now this is a good example of what the poet Robert Burns once said when he penned the immortal words, "The best laid plan of mice and men often goes awry."

The scripture we read this morning ~~xxx~~ is another example of the same thing. Last Sunday we looked at the plot of Haman to destroy all of the Jews, and we are looking today at what transpired shortly after Haman had set his plan into motion.

We read where the king, unable to sleep, decided to do some reading to perhaps make himself sleepy. The book he chose to have read to him was the book of events of what had been happening in his kingdom. It was sort of like reading and reminiscing with an old scrapbook. From this book is read an incident that had slipped his mind. This involved Mordecai getting the information to him that there was a plot underfoot to kill him, and thus he was able to have the two perpetrators of that plot arrested and hung. The king in reminiscing over this inquires of his servants if Mordecai had been properly rewarded for this. The servants who were aware of all that went on in the palace inform the king that nothing had been done to reward Mordecai.

Now it so happened that Haman had come to ~~the~~ court early that morning, and the king inquired of his servants who was in the court so that he could check into this matter and properly reward Mordecai. The servants answer that it is the Prime Minister Haman, and the king ~~sends for him~~ summons him to a conference. Haman stands before the king and the king asks, "What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Haman who is already impressed with his self-importance, naturally thinks the king is referring to him. And he remarks to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" Thus he gives the king instructions as to what should be done, thinking all along that these honors are going to be heaped upon him.



But can you imagine the shock that Haman must have felt, and the sense of utter disappointment, when the king informs him that these honors are to be bestowed upon Mordecai? Imagine that? Mordecai the Jew, the only person in the king's court who does not and will not bow to him, Haman the Prime Minister of the kingdom?

This lesson would remind us of the time when Jesus was speaking to his followers and he told them that when they went to a banquet, they should not sit at the head of the table, but they should instead take a place of low rank. Then if they perchance are to be an honored guest, the host will send for them and have them seated in a place of prominence. This would save them embarrassment from sitting in a place of distinction and then perhaps being asked to move to a lower rank. And this is the exact position in which Haman found himself at this time.

So poor Haman could do nothing else but swallow his pride and make the necessary arrangements to have Mordecai honored in the very manner that he had prescribed to take place. We then read at the end of this chapter of Haman returning to his home, mourning the fact that he was no longer the number 1 man of the king, and that he was not the exclusive VIP in the sight of all the other king's servants. His wife and advisers instead of sympathizing with him and soothing his injured pride, rub salt into his wounds by predicting that this episode could very well be the beginning of the end for Haman. They advise him that perhaps ~~his~~ his little world was about to come crumbling down around his ears. That the very people he deliberately set out to destroy and wipe from the face of the earth, could very easily end up destroying him. You may read for yourselves the remaining portion of this story and see what does happen to Haman. This book is made up of 10 short chapters and it is rather fascinating reading.

But here we are confronted with a rather unique set of events. What started out to be a very simple plan to exterminate a pest to one individual and to ward off others from this group becoming as loathsome, has now thickened into a plot of mystery and intrigue. But when we analyse the events of

this story we can see very plainly the hand of Almighty God in the background, using very simple means to accomplish the overthrow of Satan and evil against His people.

At the very beginning of this chapter we see something so simple and unspectacular that we are prone to overlook it completely. The first verse reads, "On that night the king could not sleep." The king could not sleep. How simple and yet how profound. In most instances and in the minds of most people this does not say much. When we look at the sleeplessness of a king it doesn't have too much effect on us. Here is an individual with wealth and power, with position and with prestige, and he is afflicted with a common malady that probably effected many of his people. And with this we are tempted to say, "So what? Is it coincidence? Is it merely an example of a monarch with insomnia?"

I think not. I see in this an example of how God will step into the life of a person and cause his plan to be set in motion. I am sure we have all seen the commercial on television that advertises the pills that a person can take when driving to stay awake, called No-Doze. Well, here is an example of God's No-Doze. It isn't a pill or a tablet, it is merely God stepping in and disturbing a person's sleep. When we contemplate that God does not need to always do large and spectacular things to accomplish His purpose, we cannot help but be overawed at His power and majesty. A Dr. Murray wrote a poem about this and he writes,

(Illustration of The Power of God)

There may be emperors and rulers, there may always be kings such as the king of Persia in the time of Esther. But rulers and kings come and go, but there always will be God. And God will always step in to work His purpose out. God has disturbed the sleep of people too numerous to mention. In each instance there was a set meaning and a set purpose that was shown through the lives of the people involved.

(Illustration of woman letting go)



Here is a common example of this. I say common, because all that it takes is that a person let God work in his or her life. It means trying to see just what God is trying to say or do through us.

(Illustration of newsboy in San Francisco)

God is too powerful for any one to ever beat. We need not only acknowledge His sovereignty, His majesty, and His supremacy over all, but we need to seek Him in our lives. We need to let God give each of us His No-Doze. By this I mean we need to make ourselves available to Him to make use of us whether it be the middle of the day or the middle of the night. If we should find ourselves some night rubbing elbows with the ancient king of Persia, in that we cannot sleep, perhaps God may be trying to tell us something or want us to do something. We need to attune our lives to God and let Him show us in whatever way He wishes what He wants us to do.

Seek God in all things, but to remain alert and awake take God's No-Doze.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 30, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

-----  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.  
PRELUDE: "PRELUDE IN A MAJOR" PERRY

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #43 "O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*INVOCATION

RESPONSIVE READING No. 72 PAGE 619

HYMN No. 439 "GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND"

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

OFFERING  
OFFERTORY: "PASTORALE" BRUSCH

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: JOHN LAVERNE PENROD - SON OF  
MR. & MRS. HARRY PENROD.

SOLO: "I'LL WALK WITH GOD" BY BRODSZKY - SANDY COTTAGE  
PIANO ACCOMPANIST: DEB MELTON

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 20: 1-21

SERMON: "ONE NATION UNDER WHICH GOD?"

\*GLORIA PATRI

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE

\*HYMN No. 63 "OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREEFOLD AMEN

\*POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" MALLARD

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MR. & MRS. CHARLES FENAR IN MEMORY OF FAM PFLUGH.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALVIN TAIT, JAMES  
MCCLYMONDS, MIKE NAZARUK AND GEORGE PFLUGH.

DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES FENAR WILL BE OFFICIAL GREETERS  
AT THE DOOR TODAY REPRESENTING COUNCIL.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. JOHN REDMAN  
AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. VIRGINIA BEATTY, MR. W. A. WINTERS,  
MR. WILMER PFABE.

AUGUST 25 IS OPEN FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS AS WELL AS FOUR  
SUNDAYS IN SEPT. - 1, 15, 22, 29 AND SOME OTHER DATES  
THROUGH OUT THE PERIOD OF JULY THRU DEC. - IF YOU  
WANT A SPECIAL SUNDAY - LET US KNOW NOW.

> DUE TO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND THERE WILL BE NO COUNCIL  
MEETING IN JULY - NOTICE WAS IN THE NEWSLETTER OF  
JUNE - NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN AUGUST.

ACCORDING TO WORD RECEIVED - REV. AND MRS. LEE  
NEUHAUS AND THEIR SONS KURT AND JON WILL BE VISITING  
IN BUTLER LATE IN JULY AT OUR HOME. WE ARE PLANNING  
AN OPEN HOUSE ON JULY 31 FROM 7-9 P.M. SO THAT ANY OF  
YOU WHO WANT TO SAY "HELLO" CAN DO SO. LEE AND KATHY  
ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO SEE MANY OF  
THEIR FRIENDS HERE. --- GENE AND MARILYN STEPHENSON.

> NEXT SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION - NEW MEMBERS WILL BE  
TAKEN INTO THE CHURCH AT THIS TIME.

REMEMBER - CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC - ALAMEDA PARK -  
SHELTER CLOSEST SWIMMING POOL - WED. JULY 24 AT 6:00  
P. M. - SPONSORED BY THE LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE.

BAPTISM THIS AFTERNOON - 2:00 P.M. - 8 YR. OLD SON - RYAN  
OF MR. & MRS. JOHN STEVENSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER -  
KELLY JO ANN STEVENSON, MICHELLE RENE WILLIAMS -  
DAUGHTER OF MR. & MRS. JOHN WILLIAMS.

CONFIRMATION CLASS CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE IN TODAY  
\$20.00 WILL BE PAID BY THE CHURCH AND \$15.00 IS TO  
ACCOMPANY THE REGISTRATION FROM THE PARENTS. IF YOU  
BY ANY CHANCE FORGOT TO BRING THIS WITH YOU TODAY -  
PLEASE LEAVE US KNOW IN THE OFFICE.

WELCOMES ALL VISITORS

THANK LAYMEN FOR SERVICE LAST WEEK.

From all this can draw strange parallels USA 2/  
Country founded men women driven here by harsh  
cruel taskmasters, Holland, England, Germany  
Teacher asked class, "Why pilgrims come America?"  
W. L. answered, "To worship God in their own way,  
and make other people do the same."

He partially right,  
it was to worship God as they pleased, in freedom  
thus country founded relig freedom  
1 of main principles of founding

Look at hist. of nation see few Moses among us  
Men like, Wash, Jeff, Franklin, Lincoln name few  
Men like these led out of wilderness relig oppress  
inh, minty man, inequality races so on  
Men who looked God as author creator all mankind  
Men who strove diligent incorporate into constit  
safeguards all peop, to protect against others  
making us slaves.

Have seen country rise world power less 200 yrs  
Nation set standards unsurpassed in production  
of everything from more corn per acre, to canopener  
nation reached out all direct feats of daring  
exploration  
Nation gone moon back, nation blessed more wealth  
than any other nation in history of world

But alas, like ancient Is, we made golden calves in  
past few generations

have slowly, surely turned backs upon creator  
we have said, "These are thy gods O America,  
which brought thee up out of the land of the unknd  
We have bowed to them and worshiped them

It look around can see them  
has become such ingrained thing in nation, it has  
reached grass roots level, ~~WE ALL INVOLVED~~  
& no one of us can point finger & say, "Thou art  
the man," as Nathan once pointed and said

We all have own little gods in our lives,  
perhaps some more than others, but all have them

These gods wealth, power,  
gods banks, building loans, houses buildings, apts  
gods stocks, bonds, investments, land develop  
gods iron, steel, concrete buying, selling

gods power equip, tractors, cars, motpr bikes, cycle  
gods tents, campers, trailers, swimming pools ~~boats~~  
gods, sex, liquor, tobacco, other husbands, wives

~~NOT BAD IN SELF, BUT WE GIVE EXTREMES.~~

### "One Nation Under Which God?"

Te s: Exodus 32:4b,  
"and they said, 'These are thy gods O Israel,  
which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'  
Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before  
me."

For Scrip read giving 10 C  
few short chaps later read disobed of Isrites  
chap 32 Ex, read ofvpeop impatience,  
also of discontent  
as they wait Moses return Mt. Sinai

God miraculously delivered from hands of Egyptians  
by crossinf Red Sea.

Immediately in new land, only there 3 day,  
have difficulty.  
encountered bitter water, cried against Moses  
bringing them there  
Moses call on God, God shows tree,  
he casts into water, water become sweet.  
Thus should know God all sufficient for needs  
They now encamped foot Mt. Sinai

Moses converse God, not only 10 C  
but instructions bild ark covenant & ~~ALTA~~  
In their impatience, turned completely against G  
Had Aaron make golden calf from rings, etc

had no god could see & must see be assured he with  
them

ter Aaron make idol they say, (TEXT)  
y this declar give evidence forgot which God  
brot up from E.

If read on this chap see God angry, would destroy,  
But Moses intercede & name of God not tarnished  
in Egypt elsewhere

Moses return, melt calf, put in water, make drink  
Call, "Who on Lord's Side?"  
these ordered slay unbeliever, this they did

Even after Moses again go up Mt plead with God,  
God promise blot out names from His book those  
sinned against Him.

Also promise visit them in wilderness wanderings  
In 35th vs read, "And the Lord plagued the peop  
because they made the calf which Aaron made."  
We see from this, must be punishment for sin

We have time for everything but God.  
We are so wrapped up in our little worlds, we give God 2nd place.

Our priorities are all twisted up. It is my need wants 1st, & if there is any time left then I may consider God.

Ha writing on wall my friends,  
we need either change course in nation or we doomed (Illustration of Toynbee)

Just read recently how 100M child, women, men died Africa, cause we no figure way send relief.  
This disgrace to supposedly Xpian nation.

Congress deliberates at snails pace, while country falls in ruin.

State Legislature cannot agree on anything for months & then passes 2 momentous decisions in 1 wk  
We now have stae insect, Fifefly, & it illegal to streak.

Tremendous work indeed.

we become indiff needs own peop as well as world,  
We like woman on TV commerc several yrs ago with headache, becomes upset mother, yells, "I can do it myself."

We have done this with God,  
"We can do it ourselves God, let us alone, we Do not need you."

We are to be pitied for we are indeed "One nation under God, but which one?"

Let us begin U & I, begin with this service to have a daily prayer vigil to ask God for His help in our nation.

Let us ask Him to intervene in the lives of our leaders & move them to do rite.

Let us pray for pres, whether dislike or not,

(Illustration of "Thou shalt have no other gods before me.")  
The condemnation still there from God to all peop,  
"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

But the promise is also there as well,  
"IF MY PEOP WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND HEAL THEIR AND."

All these golden calves America bowing to, more & more each year.

Finally reached point where group peop in name of protecting us from other peop used all means to insure we protected.

Thus stinking mess we call WATERGATE

Others using this situation to smear and besmirch whatever vestige of respectability the Presidency has left.

Purpose seems to be to overlook or forget other administrations & shady dealings on the other side of the fence.

All of this proves that Mr. Nixon, Mr. Johnson or Mr. Kennedy are no better nor no worse than any of us.

All of this has happened because we are too concerned with our own interests, our own greed and desire for all of the things that men & adminis can give us.

If we disbelieve this, only need ask,

"Why inflation?"

Because dealers, buyers, sellers all kinds want makemost possibly can.

Why high rents, mortgages, interest rates?

Because investors big & little want most returns on investments even at the expense of the poor, the aged, the widowed.

We can question all areas of society & answers all same, "THESE ARE THY GODS O AMERICA, WHICH BROUGHT THEE UP OUT OF THE LAND OF THE UNKNOWN."

And what does God say to all of this & thru all of this?

He still say today as then, "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME."

We once prided selves on being, "One Nation under God," & took so much pride in it we added it to pledge of allegiance.

But must ask because of conditions in nation, "One Nation Under God," BUT which God?

Is it God of hatred, power, anger, jealousy, wrath, wealth, greed, sex, overindulgence in food, drink & drugs, Is it god of senatore, legislators, govs, or presidents?

We have come to point we begrudge God the little time we give to God.



## "One Nation Under Which God?"

Text: Exodus 32:4b, "and they said, These are thy gods O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."  
Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

For our Scripture we read the story of the giving of the Ten Commandments, but a few short chapters later we learn of the disobedience of the Israelites. In the 32nd chapter of Exodus we read of the impatience ~~discontent~~ of the people, as well as their discontent. They were awaiting the return of Moses from Mt. Sinai.

God had miraculously delivered the people from the hands of their harsh taskmasters, the Egyptians, by the crossing of the Red Sea. After they had been brought into this new land they had immediately encountered difficulty in following God completely. ~~XX~~ They had been in the wilderness only 3 days and they encountered bitter water, and they cried against Moses for leading them there. So Moses called upon God and God showed him a tree which he cast into the waters and they became sweet. Thus they knew that God was sufficient for all their needs. But now they were encamped at the foot of Mt. Sinai and Moses was taking such a long time to come back.

Moses was in conversation with God getting not only the Ten Commandments, but instructions about the building of the Ark of the Covenant. But in their impatience they turned completely against God and had Aaron make them a golden ~~xxx~~ calf which they could worship. They had to have a god they could see and thus be assured the god did not leave them. After Aaron had made this idol they said, "These are thy gods O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." By this declaration they gave evidence of having completely forgotten which god it was who brought them up out ~~xxxxx~~ of the land of Egypt.

Then if we read on in this chapter we see that God becomes angry with His people and He would destroy them. But Moses interceded for them and only by his pleading that the death of all these people would cause God's name to be looked upon as being deceitful and dishonest, prevents

God from exacting a just death upon all of them. After Moses returned to the Israelites camp and melted down the golden calf, and spread it in their drinking water and made them drink it, he then called for those who in the camp who were on the Lord's side. These he ordered to slay the unbelievers among them, and this they did.

But even after this Moses went up again on the Mt, and pleaded with God to forgive their iniquity. God promised to blot out ~~the~~ from His book those who had sinned against Him. But He also promised to visit them in their wilderness wanderings. In the 35th verse of this chapter we read, "And the Lord plagued the people, because they ~~made the~~ made the calf which Aaron made." So from this we can say that when there is sin, there must be punishment.

Now from all of this we can draw some very strange parallels for these United States of America. This country was founded by men and women who were literally driven here by harsh and cruel taskmasters in England Holland and Germany.

A teacher asked his class why the pilgrims came to America, and one little boy answered, "To worship God in their own way, and make other people do the same."

Now he had it partially right, but it was to worship God as they pleased without anyone telling them how and when ~~to~~ to do it. Thus this country was founded upon religious freedom as one of the main ~~thing~~ principles for its founding.

When we look at the history of this nation we see that we had the equivalent of quite a few Moses among us. Men like Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, ~~Lincoln~~ and Lincoln to name a few. Men such as these who led us out of the wilderness of religious oppression, inhumanity to ~~men~~ men, inequality among races and so on. Men who looked to God the author and creator of all mankind. Men who strove diligently to incorporate into the very constitution, safeguards for all of the people, to protect them against others making us slaves. We have seen this country



risecto be a world power in less than 200 years. A nation that has set tandards and been unsurpassed in production from everything ~~xx~~ such as growing more corn per acre to canopeners. A nation that has reached out ~~in~~ all directions in daring feats of exploration. A nation that has been blessed by more wealth and prosperity than any other nation in the history of the world.

But alas, like that ancient nation of Israel we have made for ourselves golden calves which we have begun to worship in the past few generations and we have slowly but surely turned our backs upon our creator. We have said as they once did, "These are thy gods O America, which brought thee up out of the land of the unknown." And we have bowed down to them and worshiped them.

If we look about us we can see the gods we have made. It has become such an ingrained thing in our nation that it has reached the so called grass roots level, and no one of us can point the finger and say "thou art the man" as Nathan once pointed the finger and said to King David. We all have our own little gods in our lives, perhaps some of us have one a little more than some others, but we all have them. We have made gods of wealth, and power. Gods of building and loans and banks. Stocks and bonds, land investments, land development. We have gods of iron and steel, buildings for rent and sale. We have power equipment gods of tractors, and cars and motor bikes, and motor cycles. We have gods of tents and trailers and campers and swimming pools. We have gods of liquor and tobacco, and sex and other peoples husbands and wives. ~~xxx~~ All of these are the golden calves that America has been bowing down ~~xxx~~ to more and more each year.

We have finally reached the point where a group of people in the name of protecting us from another political party or person, have used all sorts of crroked means to insure that we are protected. Thus we have a stinking mess we call simply W<sub>a</sub>tergate. The party out of ~~power~~ power thus uses this as a wedge to smear whatever vestige of respectability



our present president has, hoping ~~that~~ they may cover their own tracks, and we will forget they had their Lyndon Johnson, and Kennedy ssandals. But all of this proves that Mr. Nixon, or Mr. Kennedy, or Mr. Johnson is no better, nor no worse than any of us. We have let all of this happen because we are all only interested in ourselves and our own greed for things.

If any of us disbelieve this we only need ask some questions. Why do we have inflation? Because the dealers and sellers want to make the most they can for their products. Why do we have such high rents and interest and mortgage rates? Because the investors big and little want the most return on their investments. Thus we can question all areas of our society and the answers are all the same, "These are Thy gods O America, ~~that~~ which brought thee up out of the land of the unknown."

But what does God say to all of this and all through this. He is still ~~saying~~ saying today as He did then, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." We once prided ourselves on being, "One nation under God." We took so much pride in this that we even added it to the pledge of allegiance. But we must ask today because of the conditions in our nation, "'One nation under which God?" Is it the God of hatred, or of power, or of wealth, or of greed, of sex, of overindulgence in food and drink and drugs? Is it the god of powerful senators, or presidents whose snap of the finger can have instant response?

We have come to such a point in our nation where we refuse to give God a few hours of our time each week. We have time for everythin but God. Let special services be called in our churches and people grumble and moan that the church is out to make money every time you turn around. But did you notice we did not ask for an offering tonight? We did not ask not because we were afriad to have one, but simply because the purpose of this service is not to take up a collection, but instead to collect ourselves together to pray to God for our nation and our people.

The handwriting is on the wall my friends. We need to either change our course in our nation in so many areas, or we are doomed.

God is not going to stand by and see us waste, and pollute, and run rampant over other people without punishing us for it. I just read last week that the United States permitted 100,000 men women and children to die slowly of starvation in Africa, simply because we did not act fast enough to relief their suffering. Our congress sits and deliberates at a snails pace on so many large issues and passes legislation of no consequence in a short time. In Pennsylvania we cannot get a budget through the legislature for months on end, but in a matter of several days they passed two bills. One to designate the firefly as the state bug, and the other to fine anyone caught streaking. A tremendous piece of work.

We have become indifferent to the needs of our own people as well as the people of the world. We are like that woman on the commercial of several years ago, suffering from a headache, who becomes upset with her mother and shouts, "I can do it myself, Mother." Well this is what we have done to God. "I can do it myself God, let me alone, I don't need you."

We are to be pitied indeed. We are indeed "One Nation Under God", but "Which God?" Let us, you and I let this service be a start in a continual prayer vigil in our lives, to ask God for His help in our nation, and in our world.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
COMMUNION SUNDAY JULY 7, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
SHARI MCBRIDE, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION 10:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE RELIGIOSO" GOTTSCHALK  
"COMMUNION" SERGISSON

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 14 "PRAISE YE THE FATHER"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
\*INVOCATION  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS  
\*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY  
SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 53

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "AGNUS DEI" BIZET

PIANO - MARILYN STEPHENSON

ORGAN - VELMA COLLINS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SOLO:

SERMON: "PASS THE BUCK!"

KARL WHITE

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"

\*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER \*INSTITUTION \*AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL ALL ARE SERVED)

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 338 "ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

\*POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" TEILMAN

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. NICK NOHACH IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES" THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL ALSO SERVE AS USHERS TODAY. ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CHURCH TODAY: LARRY R. FALKNER, MR. & MRS. JOHN STEVENSON. HOSPITALIZED: ~~MRS. VIRGINIA BEATTY~~ 462;

MR. WILLIAM WINTERS 467. - ALL *HERE NOW*

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 176.

PLEASE GET YOUR CONFIRMATION CLASS CAMP REGISTRATIONS IN NOW. \$20.00 WILL BE PAID BY THE CHURCH AND \$15. TO BE PAID BY PARENTS. THE CAMP WILL BE AT CAMP LIVING WATERS - AUG. 4-10.

DATE TO REMEMBER - WED. JULY 24 - 6:00 P.M. - CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC - ALAMEDA PARK - SHELTER CLOSEST SWIMMING POOL - SPONSORED BY THE LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE.

REV. & MRS. LEE NEUHAUS AND THEIR SONS KURT AND JON WILL BE VISITING IN BUTLER LATE IN JULY AT THE HOME OF MR. & MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON. OPEN HOUSE IS PLANNED FOR JULY 31 FROM 7-9 P.M. SO THAT ANY OF YOU WHO WANT TO SAY 'HELLO' CAN DO SO. LEE AND KATHY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO SEE MANY OF THEIR FRIENDS HERE.

SOME DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FLOWER CHART: AUG. 25; SEPT. 1, 15, 22, 29 AND LATER DATES.

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ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, IN WHOSE HANDS ARE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD; WE GIVE THEE THANKS FOR ALL THOSE THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY. GRANT TO THEM THY MERCY AND THE LIGHT OF THY PRESENCE, THAT THE GOOD WORK WHICH THOU HAST BEGUN IN THEM MAY BE PERFECTED; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

-----  
COMMUNION CARDS ARE IN THE PEWS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR HOME CHURCH (IF YOU ARE VISITING) PUT THE NAME OF CHURCH AND ADDRESS ON CARD.

KARL  
WHITE  
ILL

SOLD  
MARILYN  
COOPER

MRS. MRS. WEITZEL - YOUNG'S  
DURING MONDAY 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME VISITORS - GREET ONE ANOTHER



Then bull slain, blood placed basin  
Then he enter Holy of Holies twice,  
1st censor filled incense, then basin blood,  
this sprinkled on mercy seat.  
This, the sacrifice for priests.

Then 2 goats brot 4th.  
pl<sup>ing</sup> hands in urn had 2 lots in it, took lot  
each hand.

place hands heads of goats.  
1 lot for Lord, & he repeat this over appropriate  
other lot for AZAZEL, meant Scapegoat. goat  
red ribbon tied on neck  
Goat for Lord slain, blood sprinkled horns altar of  
incense which stood before veil  
Then scapegoat released 2 remove guilt resting on  
peop themselves.

Goat led out to supposedly wander in wilderness.  
Actually driven out pre-arranged route from city  
to cliff, edge of town

Here rock tied red ribbon, rock thrown over cliff  
& naturally goat follow it & killed  
According to legend red thred tied door of Temp, &  
this turned white at very moment scapegoat was slain  
& this signify peop cleansed of sin.

Now in this we see God provided substitute took upon  
self sins of peop.

In this case it was goat.

It remained this way yr after yr, the peop celebrat  
Day of Atonement with priest entering Holy of Holies  
to offer blood of bull for peop,  
& goat being driven out to cleanse peop.

Remained this way until Js Xp,

On day His crucifix, He became scapegoat for sins  
peop.

His blood poured out upon mercy seat for cleanse  
peop

On this day also veil of temp ripped top/bottom  
Thus revealed 1st time interior Holy of Holies

Significance of this man need never go priest again  
to intercede to God for his sins.

Man could now go directly to ~~God~~ Js Xp to intercede  
to God for him.

This what Lord's Supper all about.

It observance commemorating deth Saviour Js Xp  
(but also opportunity each come 2 God thru Js Xp,  
& have sins we committed & forgiven, & never to  
be remembered against us again.

## Communion Meditation

"Pass The Buck!"

Te : Isaiah 53:12,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

"He hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was  
n<sup>y</sup>ered with the transgressors; and he bore the  
sin of many, and made intercession for the trans-  
gressor."

(Illustration pasing the buck: boy on cats tail)  
This is a good example of what is commonly called,  
"Passing The Buck."

Harry S. Truman quote: "The buck stops here."

Passing buck originated with Adam & Eve.

G. ask Ad why ate of tree knowledge good/evil,  
Answer: "Ask her, it was her idea."

Eve answer: "Don't blame me, it was tricky snake  
that hangs around that tree."

Moses sought lead Isrites from cpativity, he naswer  
God, "Why me? I not able lead them, cannot speak  
correctly, get someone else."

King David confronted with immoral act, he answer,  
"If only she no take bath that day, its all her fault"

Bathsheba answer if asked, "Well, after all he king,  
and when king gives order you obey."

So hist. goes on & on, down thru centuries unti age  
Js Xp.

Even His lifetime we C passing buck

2 discipes guilty this.

Pete in courtyard, try find out what happen maste

3,  
he confronted by those who try place him scene  
of Js ministry,

He say, "Who me? Surely I mistaken. Why I no nothing  
this man. Must be someone else."

Judas after betrayal went return money & says,

"Here your money back, his blood on I, U R responsib  
for what happen."

Thus we C long history buck passing,  
but God made provision for this, long time before  
much this history take place.

Lev. 16 we read preparations God made & laid out  
make atonement His peop

What took place this special day was this:

1st priest place hands head bull in temp,  
& he confess sins & sins his house.

We now stand in place of priest & have Son of 3/  
God intercede for us with the Father

Th: the signif of Scrip for 2 day,  
Sometime 2 day, this week re-read this 53 chap Is.  
Read & understand what God did for U & Me.

Is: h sums up in latter part 12th vs.

"He hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was  
numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the  
sin of many, and made intercession for the trans-  
gressor."

No longer need to "PASS THE BUCK."

No longer need say, "She made me do it,"

"He made me do it," They did it,"

Somebody else not me."

Now can stand before God & say, as tax collector,

"God be merciful to me a sinner,"

Forgive my sins thru ~~thru~~ my Saviour Js Xp."

We now must admit we individ sinner,  
own up to own guilt & not try pass the buck to  
someone else.

I invite U to come to His tavle & to join me in  
the meal that made buck passing obsolete,  
Come, let us eat at His table.

"Have A Buck!"

Text: Isaiah 53:12, "He poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Most of us are probably very adept these days with a buck. By this I mean that with the high prices, and the shortages and so on we must do some juggling and figuring to get the most for our money. Now this is one kind of buck. But I am thinking this morning of another sort of buck. The late Harry S. Truman once made the classic remark, "The buck stops here," referring of course to the fact that all of the agencies and departments of our government, could pass the buck on up to the president, But when it finally reached him it stopped there, since he could not hand it on to someone else.

If we look back to the earliest history of man we see that the passing of the buck, was originated with Adam and Eve. When God asked Adam why he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he answered, "Why not ask her, it was her idea." Eve answered, "Don't put the blame on me, it was that tricky snake that hangs around that tree."

When Moses was sought by God to lead the Israelites from captivity, he answered God, "Why me? I am not able to lead them, and besides I cannot speak correctly. Get someone else."

When King David was confronted with the immoral thing that he had done he answered, "If only she had not been taking her bath that day, it's all her fault," If Bathsheba was asked about it, her answer probably was, "Well after all he is the king, and when he gives an order we must obey. So don't blame me, it was his fault."

And so the history goes on, down through the centuries until we reach the age of Christ. And even in His lifetime we see the passing of the buck. Two of His very disciples were guilty of this. Peter, who sat in the courtyard, trying to find out what was going to happen to his master, when confronted by those who tried to place him at the scenes of the ministry of Jesus, said, "Who me? Surely you must be mistaken. Why I



know nothing of this man. It must have been someone else.W

Judas after he had betrayed Jesus went back to return the money and told them, "Here is your money back, his blood is upon you and you are responsible for what happens."

But with all of this history of buck passing, God had made provision for this a long time before much of this history took place. In Leviticus 16 we read for instance of the preparations that God has made and laid out to make atonement for his people.

What took place on this special day was briefly that first the priest placed his hands on the head of a bull in the temple, and he confessed his sins and the sins of his house. Then the bull was slain and its blood was placed into a basin. Then he entered the Holy of Holies twice. First with a censor filled with incense, and then with the basin of blood which he sprinkled on the mercy seat. This was the sacrifice for the priests. Then the priest went to where there were two goats that had been brought forth. Placing his hands in an urn that had two lots in it, he took a lot in each hand. Then turning he placed his hands on the heads of the goats, and the one lot was for the Lord, and he repeated this over the appropriate goat. And the other lot was for Azazel, and this goat then had a red ribbon tied around its neck. Azazel probably meant "scape goat."

The goat for the Lord was then slain, and its blood was sprinkled on the horns of the altar of incense which stood before the veil. Then the scape goat was released to remove the guilt resting on the people themselves. The goat was led out supposedly to wander in the wilderness. But really it was driven out <sup>PRF - ARRAYS D</sup> a route from the city to a cliff ~~overlooking~~ at the edge of town. Here the goat had a rock tied to the red ribbon and the rock was thrown over the cliff with the goat following it, and naturally the goat was killed. According to legend a red thread that was tied to the door of the temple turned white at the very moment that the scapegoat was

pushed over the cliff, thus signifying that the people were cleansed of their sins.

Now in this we see that God provided a substitute ~~for the~~ to take upon itself, ~~in this case a goat, for~~ the sins of the people.

IN THIS CASE A GOAT.

And it remained this way year after year, the people celebrating the Day of Atonement, with the priest entering the Holy of Holies to offer the blood of the bull for the people, and the goat being driven out to cleanse the people.

It remained this way until the arrival of Jesus Christ. For on the day of His crucifixion, He became the scapegoat for the sins of the people. It was His blood that was poured out upon the mercy seat for the cleansing of the people. And it was also on this very day that the veil of the temple was ripped from the top to the bottom, revealing for the first time to all people the interior of the Holy of Holies. The significance of this is that at last man need never go to a priest to intercede to God for his sins. Man could go directly to Jesus Christ to intercede for him individually.

This is what the Lord's Supper is all about. It is the observance of commemorating the death of our Saviour Jesus Christ. But it is also the opportunity for each of us to come to God through this same Jesus Christ and to have our sins taken away ~~forever~~ and forgiven. To have the sins we have committed in the past forgiven and never to be remembered against us again. We can now stand in the place of the priest and have the Son of God intercede for us with the Father. This Son of God who has taken the role of the scapegoat, for us. ~~Come let us eat at His table.~~

There is no longer any need to pass the buck. ~~Come, have a buck with me,~~

~~and~~ Let us share the meal of Him who made buck passing obsolete. Come let us eat at His table.

WE NOW MUST ADMIT OUR OWN GUILT & NOT TRY TO PLACE IT ON SOMEONE ELSE.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 14, 1974  
 REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
 MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
 SHARI MCBRIDE, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

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 ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.  
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "CHanson MATINALE" KRAMER  
 "PRELUDE IN E" READ

SILENT PRAYER  
 \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 380 "O ZION, HASTE"  
 \*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*EXHORTATION  
 \*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,  
 OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE  
 AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR  
 ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO BEAT DOWN THOSE WHO ARE  
 WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT;  
 FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR  
 HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT  
 OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF GREAT  
 CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER THAN  
 IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR,  
 AMEN."  
 \*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
 \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*PRAISE  
 \*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
 \*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.  
 \*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: HEBREWS 11: 1-16  
 HYMN No. 252 "TAKE THOU OUR MINDS, DEAR LORD"  
 (FRONT OF HYMNAL)  
 \*STATEMENT OF FAITH  
 \*GLORIA PATRI  
 \*CALL TO PRAYER  
 \*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
 \*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
 \*LAYMAN: LET US PRAY.  
 PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING  
 OFFERTORY: "MEDITATION" FRYSSINGER  
 Solo: "BECAUSE HE LIVES" MRS. ROBERT HEATON  
 SERMON: "WHO IS FIRST?"  
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
 \*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 254 "JESUS, I LIVE TO THEE"  
 \*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
 ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MAESTOSO" NOLTE  
 -----  
 \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
 THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
 MR. & MRS. EDWARD WEICHEY IN MEMORY OF "PARENTS".  
 SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, MONT  
 MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.  
 NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN  
 KENNEDY.  
 DEACON AND MRS. ALVIN TAIT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT  
 THE DOOR TODAY.  
 THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 228.  
 HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HELEN CUSTEAD (MAXIMUM CARE),  
 MRS. JEAN PFLUGH 434.  
 OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
 MRS. ALBERTA (MAE) WEITZEL WHO PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY  
 MRS. MARY YOUNG WILL BE 78 YEARS OF AGE ON JULY 17,  
 THIS COMING WEDNESDAY - SEND HER A CARD - I KNOW SHE  
 WOULD APPRECIATE IT. SHE IS NOW A RESIDENT OF  
 SUNNYVIEW HOME.  
 ARC CAMPING (OPEN TO ANYONE IN CHURCH) - CAMPING FEE  
 OF \$4.00 PLUS LICENSE NUMBERS TO BE IN BY AUGUST 4,  
 TO BRUCE MCBRIDE'S OR HOWARD BOLANG.  
 CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC - JULY 24 - WEDNESDAY - 6:00  
 SHELTER CLOSEST SWIMMING POOL - ALAMEDA PARK -  
 SPONSORED BY THE LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE.  
 REV. & MRS. LEE NEUHAUS AND SONS WILL BE IN BUTLER  
 JULY 31 - WED. - OPEN HOUSE AT GENE STEPHENSON'S  
 FROM 7-9 P.M.  
 THE NEW TAPE MINISTRY FOR SHUT-INS HAS BEEN GREATLY  
 RECEIVED. A GOOD NUMBER HAVE BEEN BOUGHT FOR  
 MEMORIALS, WHILE OTHERS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY  
 FAMILIES TO BE PLACED IN THE HOMES OF LOVED ONES.  
 THIS MAKES A GREAT LIVING MEMORIAL WHICH GOES ON  
 AND ON.

WELCOMER VISITORS:  
 REV. DON VOIT NEXT 2 WEEKS. MRS. J. or VAC.



If still yes, ask self again, & again, & again, 2/  
until U can truthfully say NO.  
Because ther not 1 us here who can truthfullt say,  
Y 1 to that quest, & not stand in danger of con-  
demnation of God 4 being liar.

Now if this sounds pretty strong to U, it should.  
A e us loves God with all hart, mind, sole, mind  
(Illustration Dr. Torrey)& young man)

& so we could ask same quest this morn,  
Have any us put God 1st in lives, really put Him 1st  
Have any us put Him 1st in our politics,  
in our businesses, in our pleasures, in our joys,  
in our sorrows.  
Has He been Number 1?

U C when we put these terms, it not simple A,B,C.  
No longer like nice little memory verse we learn  
as children, & long since put aside these many yrs  
It become hardest thing we ever do, or strive do.  
Js not putting down wise little saying, easy pie  
No, He demanding discipleship, /fol  
this discipleship above all us.

But because it impossible us do, no mean we no strive  
Like any other thing put 4th Js, it guideline life  
(Illustration Ike, & infected leg)

Here an examp faith in God, but also put God 1st,  
1st in illness, as well as all things.  
We speak Eisenhowers we no speak peop far removed  
by centuries ago,  
We speak peop on level similar ours.

So must ask quest 2 day,  
Who is First in my life?  
Is it God, or is it me?  
Is it my wife? My husband?  
My children? My hobbies? My pleasures?  
My business? My property?  
Where does God fit in?  
Is there room for Him at all?

~~Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, & this is  
the great and first commandment~~

"Thous shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart  
w'th all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is  
the first and great commandment."

"WHO IS FIRST?"

## "Who Is First?"

Text: Matt. 22:37,  
"Ye shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

In our Scrip this morn, we read narrative by author  
H rews of many familiar characters of OT  
This showed their deeds of faith  
Men like, Noah, Abe, Moses & rest stand out as  
very familiar persons in realm faith in God

If read on in chap, author cites Barak, Samson,  
Jepthah, David & others as examps he could have incl  
If read stories these famous men, we C very distinc  
why they stand out

Answer all 2 obvious, it is FAITH

FAITH VI ingred life anyone desiring follow Lord  
Without F, we cannot do much anything  
(Illustration girl home Xmas vacation & faith)

From this situation we gather what F all about.

But rather than deal F alone this morn,

I like deal nother dimension of it.

F like so many otherthings has more than 1 facet

We must look all facets to understand proper

So this in mind, let us look def Js give

If look 22 chap Matt, it explain simply there  
Sadducees come Js, & try trick him with pay  
trib Caesar, & resurrection Ded, (They no believe)

When he silence them, Pharisees come ask, vs 34-37.

Now this great Commandment.

(Illustration boy call boss inquire how he doing?)

at good practice take stock lives periodic interv  
Perhaps some us do, perhaps some no do

2 no which direction we head, it imperative we pause  
look back, C what done, how we live

Then make preps either change what kept from rt path  
path, or amend lives accordingly

If I were ask quest, "How many us here can say we  
love Lord with all harts, with all soles, with all  
minds?"

I wonder how many could say, "Yes, I have?"

\* U thinking of self rt now, that U done this,  
& self again.

If U still come up with YES, then ask self again,  
And if answer still yes, then ask self again.

"Who Is First?"

Text: Matthew 22:37, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

In our Scripture this morning we read the ~~author of Hebrews~~  
*BY THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS*  
narrative of many of the familiar characters of the Old Testament, and their deeds of faith. Men like Abraham, Noah, Moses, and all the rest stand out as very familiar persons in the realm of faith in God. If we read on in this chapter the author cites Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and others as examples that he could have also included. Now if we read the stories of these famous Biblical men, we see very distinctly why they stand out. The answer is all too obvious, and it is faith.

Faith is a very important ingredient in the life of anyone desiring to follow the Lord. Without faith, we cannot do much of anything. We are somewhat like the young lady who was home on Christmas vacation from college, and who became engrossed in a discussion with a minister. She told him quite frankly that she was unable to believe in the story of Jesus. He asked her how she was going to get back to college, and she replied that she was going to fly.

"Well how will you get to the airport," he asked. "I'll take a taxi from downtown," she answered. "How will you arrange to get a ticket for the plane?" he asked. "I'll call ahead and make reservations," she answered.

"Now let me get this straight, " the minister said. "First, you will call the airport to make reservations, then you will get into a cab on the day of departure and drive to the airport, and then you will board the plane." The girl assured ~~him~~ him this was all correct. "Do you know the girl at the ticket counter?" he asked. "No" said the girl. "Do you know the taxi driver?" he asked. "No" said the girl again. "Do you know the man who will fly the plane?" he asked. Again, the girl replied no.

"In other words, you are willing to get in a cab, the driver of which you do not know, and trust him to drive you to the airport. You are going to the ticket counter to pick up a ticket from a reservations clerk, you have trusted



will have saved a ticket for you. You are going to board a plane the pilot of which you do not know and probably will never see, and trust that he will get you safely to your destination. And with all of these unknowns in a very real situation, you can <sup>HAVE COMPLETE FAITH</sup> ~~trust in~~, but you say you cannot believe in Jesus Christ, even though he has been written about and spoken of by many, many witnesses." *THIS IS STRANGE INDEED.*

From this ~~very real~~ situation we can gather what faith is all about. But rather than deal with faith alone this morning, I would like to look at another dimension of it. Faith like so many other things has more than one facet, and so we must look at it from each facet if we are to understand it properly. So with this in mind, let us look at faith from the definition that Jesus gives us.

If we look at the 22nd chapter of Matthew we can find it explained ~~very~~ simply there. In this chapter we see that the Pharisees took counsel together to see how they could trap Jesus. So they came to Him asking ~~a hypothetical question about~~ about paying tribute to Caesar. We all know Jesus classic answer, "Render to Caesar the things of Caesar, and to God the things of God."

And a little later the Sadducees come to him and they ask him a hypothetical question about marriage, ~~after~~ the resurrection. First of all the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, and secondly, they were merely trying to trick Him. So Jesus knowing their intent, gives them a very wise answer. First he tells them there is no marriage in the resurrection. And secondly he tells them that God, is a God of the living, and not the dead. Now when Jesus tells the Sadducees this, He is really stating that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are not dead, but are alive somewhere, and Jesus is showing by this that there is life beyond, thus disproving the theory of these learned men.

And we read that the crowd was astonished at His teaching. Now, that he has put down the Sadducees, the Pharisees are happy and they



want to make points with this wise man, and so they send a lawyer to Him, to ask the question, "Which is the great commandment?" And Jesus answers, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." There is more to this chapter, but what I want to speak to now is merely this great commandment.

It is a good practice to take stock of our lives at periodic intervals. Perhaps some of us do this, and perhaps some of us never give this a second thought. I believe that in order to see in which direction we are headed, it is imperative that from time to time we pause, to look back on what we have done and how we have lived, and then to make preparations to ~~xxx~~ either change what has kept us from the right paths, or to amend our lives accordingly.

If I were to ask the question, "How many of us here can say that we love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds?" I wonder how many could answer, "Yes, I have." And if you are thinking to yourself right now, that you have done this, ask yourself again. And if you still come up with, "Yes, I have," then ask yourself again. And if your answer is still yes, then ask it again and again until you can truthfully answer "NO.", because there is not a one of us here who can say truthfully Yes to that question and not stand in the way of God's wrath for being a liar.

Now if this sounds pretty strong to you, it should sound that way. None of us, ever loves God with all our hearts with all our souls and with all our minds. Dr. R.A. Torrey a very noted preacher of some years ago once told of a ~~young man coming to him~~ minister coming to him and telling him of a young man who wanted to be a minister.

(Illustration of young man and Dr. Torrey's questions on loving God.)

And so we could ask the same questions this morning. Have any of us put God first in our lives? In our politics, in our businesses, in our pleasures, in our joys, in our sorrows? Has He been number 1?

You see, when we put it in these terms, it is not the simple A, B, C, type of thing that we perhaps thought it was. It is no longer the nice little memory verse that we perhaps learned as children and have long since thought of only in these terms. It becomes the hardest thing that a person could ever strive to do. Jesus was not setting down here a wise little saying that was as easy as pie to follow. No, he was demanding a type of discipleship that is above and beyond the reach of all of us. But because it is impossible for us to do, does not mean that we are not to strive toward it. Like many other things put forth by Jesus, it is a guideline to help us to live the good life.

~~As I said before, faith has many facets to it, and this is one of them. But faith many times~~

(Illustration of Ike Eisenhower and infected leg)

Now here is an example of faith in God, but also of putting God first, in illness, as well as in all things. When we speak of the Eisenhower family, we are not talking of some far removed people of centuries ago, but of people who were ~~xxx~~ and are on a level similar to ours.

So we must ask the question of ourselves today, "Who is first in my life? Is it God? Or is it me? Is it my wife? My Husband? My children? My hobbies? My pleasures? My business? My property?

Where does My God fit in? Is there room for Him at all? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, this is the great and first commandment."

"Who is FIRST?"



WELCOME VISITORS  
WELCOME MISS REED



Pres. speaks on TV 30 min, & commentators will take 15 to tell us what they think he said, 2/  
 Look entertain section paper, U will find reviews written by someone whose opin supposed shape ur thinking whether certain picture or play good/bad  
 In TV section paper see reviews what someone thinks best TV shows, in their opin.  
 A survey taken among 1M 1500 peop as what program they watch on cert nite, & this supposed be natl avg, thus some programs U I think good, R dumped  
 Investment counselors tell me what I should do with whatever money I may have.  
 opin some star athlete should determine which blade I use, or witch cereal I eat, or witch hair tonic I should use on my thinning hair.  
 Opins movie stars determine which cosmetics best for milladys complex, or which soap better.  
 Opin Supreme Court can change entire course of nation  
 Opin of jury decides guilt or innocence person accuse  
 Amy Vanderbilt or Emily Post determines which fork I shall use for salad, or whether I should eat chicken in public with my fingers, (as I can do in privacy of my home)  
 Perhaps need pray as 1 man did, "Lord, give me this day my daily opin, & forgive me 4 the 1 I had yester."  
 In MY Opin, the voices of preachers & prophets have many times only been expressing opins 4 2 manny yrs.  
 Insted sound 4th as tru pr's, too often words only opins  
 D f tween tru pr. & fals pr, accord Jere & all pr's was if message preface with words, "Thus says Lord"  
 If this term could not be apply prophecy then not legit  
 Well, "Thus says the Lord" today as He always said, "Beware Of False Prophets"  
 There 2 many voices clamoring be herd, unfortunately some herd in our churches  
 Insted Gosp Js Xp be proclaimed, Gosp mans needs & Gosp of man being proclaimed  
 Insted Gosp Salv be preach, message of save self thru doing things be preached  
 If we 2 be truly led by God, be truly open His voice we must listen for Him in His Word, The Scriptures  
 we must listen for Him in our lives  
 It is time we looked at ~~xxx~~ what are our convictions and what are our opins.  
 Someone said, "Peop die for convictions, but not for opins."

# "In My Opinion!"

Text: Jeremiah ~~25~~ 23: 28,

"The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully."

Several yrs ago, cult of peop prophesied end of world. These peop live Calif.

Said certain day, during summer yr world end/  
 Packed all provisions, & belongings went live caves in hills, await end.

Their surprise must been unbounded when day came/went still no end. World went on

Can recall hear reporters tell how peop went silent quietly back to homes, no fanfare.

But were more vocal when proclaiming end of world.

This good examp false propets.

Serm Mt, Js tell peop beware false pr.

He say, come sheep clothing, inwardly like ravenous wolves.

He go on say, "By their fruits you shall know them"

Pb. Jere spoke against false pr in scrip

He say, vs 16, they speak lies supposedly from God.

He questions vs 18, if they have stood before God & gotten the message from Him.

He tell God's wrath upon false pr. vss 19, 20

God has said thru him (Jeremiah), He did bot send th pr's yet they prophesied, vs 21,

Had they stood before Him they would have performed the duty of real pr, preach repentance to winners. vs 22

He tell God ask if man can hide from God, vs 24

He tell God's Word powerful, strong vs 29

God against all false prophets, & prophecies vss 30-32

We live age more fals pr's, perhaps any other

Jere culd easily be speak us 2day.

tell us, "let prophet who has dream, tell dream, but let him who has Word of God, speak that Word faithfully."

(Minister being stopped interview illustration)

We all have opins, & perfectly willing share at drop of hint to do so.

(Illustration Eli Wallech and old movie)

This about what our age amt to, opins, opins, & more opins.

This proven by Gosp Js Xp. 3#?

This Gosp always same, always will be

We sinners, wages sin/death

we cannot save selves good works, good deeds

We may be saved, by come Him accept Him personally in our lives.

We must ignore opins those pr's would have us belie

we have salvation by work in ghettos,

or by help social movements of day

We must listen what He say, "No man comes to the F. except by me."

So if we 2 B Xpian we must believe what Js, tell us

We must come 2 Him in other words.

(Illustration 23rd Psal & knowing Shepherd)

Here good examp, knowing the lines, but what good is it if we can say The Lord is my Shepherd, and never know the rue meaning of it?

"Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has My Word, speak my Word faithfully," says the Lord.

Read your bulletin back for today, it ironic what it says.

This what Js, did, & this we must do

It said on Newton tomb chiseled words, "Nature and nature's laws lay hid in the nite. God said, "Let Newton be," and all was lite."

We no this not complete tru

no Newton had vast knowledge as well as wisdom, but we also no he knew his wisdom & knowledge limi. He once said, he was a little child picking up pebbles along the seashore. Around him the vast unending sea of unknown whispers.

"Fleeting shadows in a cave," are what Plato called it.

Paul said, "We see ~~thru~~ in a mirror darkly"

Gilbert Chesterton has said of the modern newspaper, "It is a loud vulgar organ by which our civilization proclaims that it has nothing to say."

So when we tempted accept opins of editorsm commetato movie stars, star athletes let us accept them for what they are, OPINIONS.

Let us instead, "Let the propeht who has a dream tell it, but listen for the Word of God spoken faithfully by the real prophet, who wants to speak for the LORD," thus says the LORD, in mynopinion.



"In My Opinion"

Text: Jeremiah 23:28 "Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully."

Several years ago, a cult of people in California, made the assertion that the world would end on a certain day during the summer of that year. So they packed all of their provisions and belongings and many of them went to live in caves on a hillside to await the end. Their surprise must have been unbounded when that day came and ~~want~~ and the world still went on. I can recall hearing reporters telling how these people went <sup>SILENTLY &</sup> quietly back to their homes without any fanfare. But they were <sup>MUCH</sup> more vocal when they were proclaiming the end of the world.

This is a good example of false prophets. ~~Jesus told~~ In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people to beware of false prophets. He said they come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. He went on to say, "By their fruits you will know them." The prophet Jeremiah spoke against the false prophets in our scripture this morning. He said, "Don't listen to the false prophets who speak of vain hopes, who speak visions of their minds, which are not from the mouth of God. They will tell those that despise the Lord, that all is well, and to everyone who stubbornly refuses to follow God's way, that no evil shall come upon you."

But, he asks, "Who among them has stood in the council of the Lord, to perceive and hear his word, or who has given heed to his word and listened?" He tells that God has said, "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings." He tells of God asking if man can hide himself from God? God says that he can see man and he knows what man is saying and doing. "I have heard what the prophets



have said who prophesy lies in my name saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Ba al? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully."

*PERHAPS*  
A  
We are living in an age that has more false prophets, than ~~at~~ any other time in the history of the world. Jeremiah could very easily be speaking to us today and telling us to let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has the word of God speak that word faithfully.

A minister told of being stopped for a personal interview on the street. He said he could well imagine the radio audience holding its collective breath awaiting the pearls to drop from his mouth. He said he felt that surely the announcer must have perceived that here was a very intelligent and discerning individual. A man whose very wisdom had gone untapped for too long. He said, "There is probably no greater flattery we can give someone ~~than~~ than to ask his opinion on something."

We all have opinions and we are perfectly willing to share them at the drop of a hat. On the Thursday night movie this past week Eli Wallach the noted actor portrayed a man who ~~was~~ is like so many people in the world today, a number and not a person. His sense of not belonging made him want to do something spectacular, so he plotted to kidnap a woman to prove his point. It was a rather hilarious, yet stupid plot, and after he had abducted this woman and taken her to his apartment, she begins to tell him something and he shouts at her, "Shut up, shut up, I don't want to hear your opinions. Everyone has opinions, and I don't want to hear yours."

This is about what our age amounts to, opinions, opinions and more opinions. Let the president speak on television for 30 minutes and then we must be subjected to 15 minutes of what the commentators think he said. Look at the entertainment section of the paper ~~at the movies~~ and you will find reviews written by someone whose opinion is supposed to shape your thinking as to whether a certain picture <sup>OR PLAY</sup> is good or bad. Look at the television section of the paper and someone there has written a review of which programs are in their opinion the best. A survey is taken of about 1000 or 1500 people as to what programs they are watching on a certain night and this is supposed to be the average opinion for the nation, and so some programs that perhaps you and I think are good, are dumped.

~~Perhaps we need to start praying as one man supposedly did, "Lord, give me this day my daily opinion, and forgive me the one I had yesterday."~~

The investment counselors tell me what I should do with whatever money I have. The opinion of some star athlete should determine which razor blade I use, or which cereal I should eat, or which hair tonic I should use. The opinions of movie stars determine what cosmetics are best for miladys complexion or which soap is better. The opinion of the supreme court can change the entire course of our nation. The opinion of a jury decides the guilt or innocence of a person accused. Amy Vanderbilt or Emily Post determines which fork I shall use for my salad or ~~whether~~ whether I should eat chicken in public with my fingers, (as I can do in the privacy of my home).

Perhaps we need to pray as one man supposedly did, "Lord, give me this day my daily opinion, and forgive me for the one I had yesterday."

In my opinion, the voices of the preachers and so called prophets have only been expressing opinions for too many years now.



Instead of sounding forth as true prophets ~~should~~, too often the words have been merely opinions. The difference between a true prophet and a false prophet according to Jeremiah and all the prophets, was if the message could be prefaced with the words, "Thus says the Lord." If this term could not be applied to a prophecy then it was not legitimate.

Well, "thus says the Lord" today as He has always said, "Beware of false prophets!" There are too many voices today clamoring to be heard and unfortunately some of them are to be heard in our churches. Instead of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed, the Gospel of Man and Man's needs is being proclaimed. Instead of the message of Salvation, the message of saving yourself through doing things is being preached. If we are to be truly led by God and to be truly open to His voice, then we must listen for Him in His word, the scriptures, and we must listen for Him in our lives.

The Gospel of ~~the~~ Jesus Christ is ever the same and will always remain so, ~~and that is~~, ~~we~~ we are sinners, and the wages of sin is death, and we cannot save ourselves by good works and deeds. We can only ~~be~~ be saved by coming to Jesus Christ and accepting Him personally in our lives. ~~So to~~ ~~those prophets who would have us believe that we have salvation by working in the ghettos, or by helping in the social movements of the day, we must ignore their opinions and listen to what the Lord says.~~ Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father except by me." So if we are to ~~believe the~~ be Christian, we must believe what Christ tells us. We must come to know Him in other words.

~~The~~ At a large dinner party, a certain well known stage actor was asked to entertain. He had chosen to recite the 23rd Psalm. (Illustration of Knowing the Shepherd.)

Here is a good example of knowing the lines, being able to present them flawlessly, and yet, not being able to convey the message, because of an incomplete knowledge of the Shepherd.



"Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully," says the Lord. It is said that on Newton's tomb are chiseled the words, "nature and nature's laws, lay hid in night. God said: 'Let Newton Be,' and all was light." But we know this is not completely true. We know that Newton had a vast knowledge as well as wisdom, but we also know he knew that his wisdom and knowledge were limited. He realized his knowledge was brief and he knew what he didn't know. He once said that he was a little child, picking up pebbles along the seashore. Around him the vast, unending sea of ~~whispers~~ unknown whispers.

"Fleeting shadows in a cave," are what Plato called it. Paul said, "We see in a mirror darkly." Gilbert Chesterton has said of the modern newspaper, "It is a loud vulgar organ by which our civilization proclaims that it has nothing to say." So when we are tempted to accept the opinions of editors or commentators, or movie stars or athletic heroes, or to listen to the false prophets surrounding us on all sides, "let the prophet who has a dream tell it, but listen for the word of the Lord spoken faithfully by the real prophet, who wants to speak for the Lord," thus says the Lord, in my Opinion.

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall hear  
my voice: He hath delivered my soul in peace from  
the battle that was against me.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 11, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
RANDY DELLEN, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E FLAT" READ  
"ANDANTINO" NOLTE

SILENT PRAYER  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 8 "PRAISE YE THE LORD"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
\*EXHORTATION  
\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, WHO IN  
THY GOODNESS HAST LED THIS PEOPLE HITHERTO BY WONDROUS  
WAYS; WHO MAKEST THE NATIONS TO PRAISE THEE, AND KNITTEST  
THEM TOGETHER IN THE BONDS OF PEACE; WE BESEECH THEE TO  
POUR THINE ABUNDANT BLESSING ON THIS NATION OVER WHICH  
THOU HAST CALLED THY SERVANT OUR PRESIDENT. GRANT THAT  
ALL, OF WHATEVER RACE OR COLOUR, OR TONGUE, MAY, IN  
PROSPERITY AND PEACE, BE UNITED IN THE BOND OF BROTHERHOOD,  
AND IN THE ONE FELLOWSHIP OF THE FAITH, SO THAT WE MAY BE  
FOUND A PEOPLE ACCEPTABLE UNTO THEE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST  
OUR LORD. AMEN."  
\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.  
\*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 8: 31-47  
HYMN No. 468 "JESUS, SAVIOUR, PILOT ME"  
\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)  
\*GLORIA PATRI  
\*CALL TO PRAYER  
\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING  
OFFERTORY: "REVERIE" GUYLIAND  
DUET: "A SONG OF PEACE" SIBELIUS SUNG BY  
DALE AND LLOYD LINK  
SERMON: "TRUTH?"  
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 399 "ONCE TO EVERY MAN AND NATION"  
\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" SCHUBERT  
- - - - - \*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MISS MARIE DAUBENSPECK IN MEMORY OF HER "PARENTS"  
MARY ELIZABETH DAUBENSPECK AND GEORGE FREECE  
DAUBENSPECK.  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, MONT  
MACKINNEY, STEVE VARGO.  
MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT  
THE DOOR TODAY.  
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. BARB VARGO  
AND PATTY BASEHORE.  
THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 153.  
WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - HAVE  
ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.  
FLOWER DATES ARE OPEN - SEPT. 1 AND 15 AND 29TH.  
OTHER DATES ARE AVAILABLE.  
REV. LINK WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION THE LAST TWO WEEKS  
OF AUGUST.  
REV. GRANVILLE COOPER WILL BE WITH US NEXT WEEK.  
REV. CHARLES ADAMI, JR. WILL BE HERE ON THE 25TH.  
THE ARC CLASS AND OTHERS FROM THE CONGREGATION ARE  
CAMPING AT PYMATUNING. THEY WILL BE VISITING GREEN-  
VILLE FOR SERVICES AND HAVE A TOUR OF THE BUILDING  
TODAY.  
O GOD, OUR FATHER, GIVE TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD  
A NEW HEART OF COMRADESHIP; THAT EVERY PEOPLE MAY  
BRING ITS TRIBUTE OF EXCELLENCE TO THE COMMON TREAS-  
URY, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY GO FORWARD IN THE NEW AND  
LIVING WAY WHICH HE HATH CONSECRATED FOR US; WHO NOW  
LIVETH AND REIGNETH, WITH THEE AND THE SPIRIT OF  
TRUTH, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

Don't know bout you,  
 but I liked what I saw & herd from Mr. Ford.  
 He not ashamed call upon God  
 or he ashamed ask for prayers for self & nation.

2 things he said,  
 1st. "Honesty still the best policy."  
 2nd. "Truth is the glue that holds govt, together."

I think he rt,  
 but we must take 1 step further  
 We must all as peop be honest,  
 We must all be aware truth is glue holds nation  
 together as well.

We had enuf lies, untruths, deception,  
 We had enuf false prophets surrounding leaders.  
 It now time we seek have honest peop all walks life,  
 it now time we all, "Know truth, and the truth will  
 make us free and keep us free."

2/

"Truth?"

Text: John 8:32, "And you will know the truth, and  
 the truth will make you free."

TV Show, To Tell The Truth,  
 format, object of show.  
 It game lying deception, tho only game  
 it shows how truth pushed into background

Js said, (Text)  
 He speak Jews believe in Him,  
 He inform rev. of G. they have Tr. & tr. set free  
 in world.

Also Jn story trial Js Pilate ask, What is Truth?  
 Good quest. Tr? What is it? Who define it?  
 Who has it? What meant by it?

OT books I K. 22, II Chron, 18 story recorded.  
 If care follow, we use I K. 22  
 (Exegete ch. 22, vss 1-28)

This story good examp how Tr. circumvent & lies sot  
 Compare story events past week after  
 & past 2yr Watergate mess.

We see 1st time nation pres toppled power,  
 because aids assts surround him, false prophs

What really take place, flasehood, lies, steal, chea  
 almost way of life some peop

Conf. camp examp.

good/evil, chance get test answers \$5.

Surprisingly major. kids group think about it

It's reflection how child act/react circums. round  
 (illustration boy raised wrong) them

Isn't this where prob lies? At Home?

Isn't it we parents must set examp?

Amazed times parents say me cannot get children  
 go ch. SS & pass off, "Oh, one day they have child  
 of own, they come back to ch."

That like conversation Coleridge had with parent  
 (Illustration this conversation)

Said before, will say again, & probably many times

"We need start tr. rt own homes, own area, then  
 revival may take place. in nation."

believe God stepped into affairs our nation,  
 He brot change cause peop called name of God to  
 intercede our affairs.



"Truth?"

Text: John 8:32, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

There is a show on Television that is called, "To Tell The Truth." Most of you are probably familiar with it. For those who aren't it is composed of a panel of celebrities, and they interview groups of 3 people, and the object of the interviewing is to determine which one of the three is actually the person who works at an odd trade, or performs some feat out of the ordinary. At the end of a certain period of time the real person being represented by all 3 is asked to step forward. Although the name of the game is "to tell the truth," it is in actuality a game of lying and deception to keep the panel guessing. Now although this is only a game, it is evidence of how Truth has been pushed into the background.

Jesus said in the 8th chapter of John in the 32nd verse, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." He was speaking to a group of Jews who believed in Him and He was informing them that through the revelation of God in their lives they would have the Truth, and this Truth would set them free from the world.

On the other hand in another portion of the Gospel of John, during the questioning of Jesus at His trial, Pilate asks the question, "What is Truth?" And it is a good question. Truth? What is truth? Who can define it? What is meant by it? Who has it? In the Old Testament there is a story that is recorded in two different books. It is recorded in I Kings chapter 22, and in II Chronicles chapter 18. If you care to follow along we will be using the story as it is found in the book of I Kings. chapter 22. ~~xxxxxx~~ The story begins by telling that for 3 yrs there had been peace between Israel and Syria. During the 3rd year the King of Judah, King Jehosaphat meets with the King of Israel King Ahab, and they plot to fight against Ramoth-Gilead which is part of Syria. King Jeshoshaphat pledges his <sup>army</sup> ~~xxx~~, his horses, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and his people to King Ahab to fight in the battle against Ramoth-Gilead.

But first, King Jehoshaphat wants to know if this is in accordance with the will of God. So he tells Ahab to inquire of the Lord, what they should do. So Ahab assembles his 400 prophets and inquires what the Lord has to say about the matter. And they all answered, "Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." But Jehoshaphat is a little sceptical and perhaps feels that these prophets are merely mouthing what King Ahab wants to hear. So he inquires if there is not yet another prophet that could be called upon. And Ahab tells him there is indeed another prophet, but he does not call upon him because he never has anything good in the way of prophecy. He confides to Jehoshaphat that he hates this prophet. Jehoshaphat tells him to fetch this prophet and hear his prophecy as well.

So Ahab sends a messenger to get Micaiah. While they are awaiting the arrival of Micaiah, the kings are seated on thrones wearing their fine robes, and all the prophets are prophesying before them. Zedekiah made a pair of iron horns and he holds them up like a bull and declares, "Thus says the Lord, 'With these you will push the Syrians until they are destroyed.'" And all the prophets prophesied with one accord and said, "Go up to Ramoth-Gilead and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king."

Now the messenger who went to fetch Micaiah tells him what all the other prophets have prophesied, and he tells him to speak likewise. But Micaiah informs him, "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that will I speak." So he comes before the king and the king inquires as to whether he should go into battle against the Syrians. And Micaiah tells him, "Go up and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." But the king sees through this prophesy and he knows that Micaiah is merely imitating the other prophets. So he tells him to speak the truth and to tell what the Lord really wants him to tell.

So Micaiah tells him of the vision he saw of the death of the leader, (shepherd or king), and how the people are defeated and return home defeated.



Ahab turns to Jehoshaphat and says, "Did I not tell you that he would t prophesy good concerning me?" And Micaiah then tells him that all of the prophets have merely been telling the king what he wants to hear, and how they have been speaking lies through the instigation of ~~the~~ Satan and his helpers. These are strong words to be speaking against this vast army of prophets. Because of this Zedekiah <sup>becomes angry and strikes</sup> ~~is angered and he strikes~~ Micaiah ~~on~~ the cheek and inquires as to how he would interpret this action? And Micaiah informs him that he shall indeed know someday when he was by himself and had time to think.

Ahab becomes furious with Micaiah's prophesy, and has him put in prison with scant food, until the King returns from battle. Micaiah's parting shot to the king is, "If you return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me." And he tells all of them, "Hear all you peoples." The remainder of the chapter tells how Ahab is killed in battle and the prophesy of the Lord ~~once~~ again was right.

This story is a good example of how truth is so often circumvented and instead lies are sought after. I cannot help but compare this story with the events of this past week and of the past 2 years in the Watergate mess. We have seen for the first time in the history of our nation, a president toppled from ~~power~~ because his aides and his assistants who surrounded him, were false prophets in so many ways. But what has really taken place is that falshood and lies, cheating and stealing, <sup>trying to</sup> ~~getting away with~~ things has become a way of life for some people.

This past week at the Confirmation Camp at Living Waters, I was privileged to lead the theme for Wednesday on Good and Evil. One part of this session involved dividing the ~~gr~~ whole group into 4 smaller groups and giving each group a different hypothetical situation to work on. Each situation involved thinking through what decision should be rendered, choosing either good or evil. The one group wrestled with the problem of a boybor girl in a ~~class~~ math class and not doing well in it at all. A good friend offered to sell



the answers to the test to be given, guaranteeing the grade of A-. The question raised was, "What would you do," ~~xxxxxx~~ " Surprisingly, the majority of the kids said they would have to think it over whether they would buy the answers or not. I think this is a reflection of how our children react and are reacting to the circumstances around them.

(Illustration of boy raised wrong & parents cannot understand this).

Isn't this where the problem really lies, in the home? Isn't it we parents who must set the example? I cannot help but be amazed at the times I have heard parents confess to me that they cannot get their children to go to church or Sunday School and they pass it off, that, "Oh one day when they have children of their own they will come back to the church." That's about like the conversation the poet Coleridge had with a parent, (Illustration of this conversation.)

I have said it before and I will say it again, and probably several more times, "We need to start with the truth, right in our own homes and our own area, and then we will see a revival in our nation.

I believe that God ~~xxx~~ stepped into the destiny of our nation and brought about the change we have seen take place this past week. I believe it has come about because the people of this land have called upon God to intercede in our affairs. I don't know about you, but I liked what I heard and saw from Mr. Ford. We could say that the Cadillacs in the White House have been replaced by a lowly Ford. But Mr. Ford was not ashamed to call upon the name of God. Nor was he ashamed to admit he needed our prayers in his life. <sup>they were, "honesty is still best policy</sup> ~~two~~ ~~xxx~~ thing he said that made a lot of sense, ~~xxxxxxxx~~, "Truth is the glue that holds government together." I think he is right. But we must take it even one step further. We must all as a people be honest, and we must all be aware that truth is the glue that holds a nation together.

We have had enough lies and untruths. We have had enough false prophets surrounding our leaders. It is time we seek to have honest people in all walks of life, and it is time we all, "Know the truth, and the truth will make us free, and keep us free."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPT. 1, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "DIALOGUE" MOZART  
"CONTENTMENT" GRIEG

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 131 "O MASTER WORKMAN OF THE RACE"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE POWER TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL, HEAR US AS WE CONFESS OUR SINS. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE FAILED THEE AND OURSELVES. REGARDLESS OF HOW GOOD WE HAVE BEEN, WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN THE KIND OF PERSON THAT YOU WANT US TO BE. SOMETIMES OUR BELIEF IN OUR OWN GOODNESS HAS PREVENTED US FROM SEEING OUR SINFULNESS. WE HAVE FELT THAT ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAS MADE US BETTER THAN OTHERS. OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO OUR HIDDEN SINS, AS WE MAKE A SINCERE AND HUMBLE CONFESSION IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 12: 16-34

HYMN No. 392 "JESUS, THOU DIVINE COMPANION"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

\*OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "COME, HOLY SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE" RODGERS

SOLO: "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD" PETERSON - VON MALONEY  
SERMON: "INFLATED LABOR!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 355 "GOD, LABOR ON!"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "A HYMN OF PEACE" PRICE

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY THE FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES PENAR. DEACON ALLEN BOTACCHI WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR THIS MORNING.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: SHARON STAUFFER, LAUREL STAUFFER, DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 183.

THE PASTOR'S CLASS FOR CONFIRMATION WILL BEGIN DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR ON SEPT. 8TH - 9:45. THE CLASS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY ONLY AND WILL BE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WITH CONFIRMATION TAKING PLACE ON PALM SUNDAY OF THE SECOND YEAR.

THURS - SEPT. 5 - 6:30 P.M. 17/76 FUND DINNER -

NO CHARGE FOR DINNER, BUT A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AT LEAST FIVE (5) COUNCIL MEMBERS THERE.

SAT. SEPT. 14 - 8:00 P.M. - DAN SCHALL, NOTED BUTLER AREA GOSPEL SINGER, TOGETHER WITH THE CLAIR HALSTEAD MEN'S CHOIR WILL PRESENT A RELIGIOUS CONCERT AT BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE BENEFIT OF BUTLER CO. BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION. TICKETS ARE \$3.00 AND CAN BE OBTAINED AT TRADER'S MUSIC STORE, MAIL - LYNN BEATTY (898-0958); ANNETTE BASSFORD (283-0958); OR AT DOOR.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

CONGREGATION DINNER - (FOR SENIOR CHRISTIANS AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION) - KEEP IN MIND SEPT. 22 - 5:30 P.M.

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER.

COUNCIL MEMBERS - SHORT MEETING AFTER WORSHIP TODAY.

MEETING IN THE UNDERCROFT.

WELCOME VISITORS - WELCOME MARILYN STEPHENSON  
TALK ABOUT S.S. - MRS. DORRIS - HOPE



"Inflated Labor!"

Text: Ecclesiastes 5:9-20

Text Verse: 9:16b

"What profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?"

Jerome K. Jerome 19C humorist wrote: in 3 men in boat, "I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart."

There been all sorts comments bout labor/work.

Suffice 2 say, W we all do # lifetime, & cannot escape it.

2day we speak inflation & everyone knows what we talk about.

Seems 4 most peop their income no stretch far as outgo.

Inflation worldwide.

Herd news past weeks, Italy bankrupt, this week

4th major bank Germany forced close

Thus inflation serious matter.

But did U ever consider inflation in labor?

Turn 5th chap Ecclesiastes, & perhaps see this so.

Vs. 9, king same as we. Same level common man, must depend on others who sweat & toil in order to eat. With all wealth he still depend common things life.

vs. 10, More we get, more we want. Proven fact & part of nature.

vs. 11, More we get, more we use, & we only see them 4 short time & they gone. Only see them with eyes.

vs. 12, Man who do good day work no problem sleeping. Rich man have insomnia because maybe ill-gotten gain. Worried bout stocks, bonds, financial deals.

Vs. 13, Nothing wrong have riches, evil in amassing & never using for good (Illustration LeTourneau)

vs. 14, Wealth of richman does him no good & cause trouble if he keep for self. May have joy of son, but often son only fit waste dad's money.

vs. 15, Way we came in world, go out same way.

vs. 16a, Solomon calls evil go out as came in. But what evil? He perhaps express fact they only hope resurr. & thus great loss leave all behind. But death great equalizer & we all reduced to sameness. No longer rank or royalty, all children of God called home.

vs. 16b, What can we gain if labor filled with wind? Or we work for inflated values? 2/

vs. 17, Person who live this way filled, anger, sorrow, frustration

vs. 18, It good 2 enjoy fruits of labors, this what God wants for us. But this only end result when we do what should do with what given to us.

vs. 19, God blesses us with gifts & we to use properly. This is gift of God.

vs. 20, Life flies by so quickly, & we only remember fraction of it. But God answers in the joy of our hearts. In other words, we know when we are doing what is right because we have sense of joy & satisfaction in our hearts.

This what Js poin out in Scrip # this morn.

He told rich man & inflated labor & wealth

Told how this did him no good, cause he had leave all behind.

Told how can only wear 1 suit at time, eat 1 meal,

Told 2 think of 2day & not worry bout tomorrow,

He close discourse, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

How many us here this morn, work at job we feel really best suited for us?

Will not ask show of hands,

I'll just ask think over in minds.

Have U ever considered God has special plan & place employment 4 each His children?

Way to find is 2 seek His help & guid thru prayer

I worked with, known many men bitter frustrated simply because work at job cause pension/ other benefits.

Employers cross country tell young men ask 1st, not what expected of me, but, "Do I get pension? How bout hospit? Vacation?"

When I speak get in job right 4 U, I speak experience if U forgive getting personal this morn.

I here cause I kept asking God show me way.

He led me different places of employ.

Each 1 training ground 4 next step.

Finally tender age 40, some say life begin, & I agree, I entered Seminary.

1st time in life, square peg, square hole, or round peg, round hole.

God finally placed me where He wanted me.



He can do same 4 U

3/

If U dissatisfied work or occupation, don't hang on  
cause inflated values/ finge benefits,  
place problem in hands of God.

I do not advocate all go work on Tuesday say "I quit,"  
I advocate instead U look at self & employment in  
new & honest way.

Ask self, "Am I here because God really wants me here?  
Or am I here because I can make the most money even  
if I have to trade my pride, my dignity, and my  
Christianity to be here?"

We need come God talk Him just as would talk old frier  
We need tell Him how we feel about job, how we want  
be where he wants us 2 be.

Continue at job, continue pray about it.

He may send another job offer.

He may tell you stay where U are,

He may want U move another part of company.

But U must open your life & hart to God, & let His  
Holy Spirit work in U

(Illustration of Chinese woman & how she prayed)

Perhaps we each need look anew at daily life & labors

We have inflated labor to extent we lost sight of  
commonplace in life.

We need think more of simple things of life & seek  
as Js tried teach us, "To place treasure where  
heart is"

If do this we strive lay up treasure in hvn, & strive  
less lay up treasure on earth where moths consume,  
& rust destroys.

Solomon had it right when he said,

"And what profit hath he that hath labored for the  
wind?"

May this not be said of us, but instead, "We seek  
the kingdom of God" and let Him add the proper things  
to our lives."

"Inflated Labor!"

Text: Ecclesiastes 5:9-20,  
Text Verse: 9:16b

"And what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?"

Jerome K. Jerome <sup>an</sup> ~~the~~ English humorist of the 19th century, wrote in one of his works entitled, "Three Men In A Boat," "I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart."

There have been all sorts of comments made about labor & work. Suffice it to say, work is something that we do for a lifetime, and it is something that all of us share and cannot escape from. Today we speak of inflation and everyone knows what we are talking about. It seems that for most people their income does not stretch as far as their outgo. Inflation is not only in America, but it is worldwide. I heard on TV this past week that the country of Italy declared bankruptcy, and that the 4th bank in Germany <sup>has</sup> closed because of the money situation. Thus we can see that inflation is a very serious matter. But did you ever consider that there may be inflation in labor? Well, if we turn to the 5th chapter of Ecclesiastes, I think we can determine that this is perhaps so.

In the 9th vs of the 5th chapter of Ecclesiastes we read, (read). In other words the king is on the same level as the common man, because without the toil and labor and sweat of other people he cannot eat. He is dependent upon the produce of the field ~~xx~~ just as his servants are. With all of his wealth and fortune he must depend upon the common things of life.

Vs. 10, The more we get the more we want. It is a proven fact and it is part of nature.

Vs. 11, The more we get the more we use, and we only see them for a short time and they are gone. We can only see them with our eyes.

Vs. 12, A man who does a good days work can lie down at night and drop off to sleep with little or no effort. The reasons being that he is 1, tired physically, and 2, he knows or has the satisfaction of knowing that he has



indulged in honest labor and his conscience is not going to bother him with guilt. The rich man in many instances cannot indulge himself in a good sound sleep. Too often he is bothered with insomnia because his stocks and bonds or his latest financial deal is on his mind.

Vs. 13, There is nothing wrong with having riches, the evil or the wrong is in amassing them and never using them for good.

(Illustration of Letourneau)

Vs. 14, The wealth of a rich man does him no good and cause him trouble if he tries to keep it for himself. He may have the joy of having a son, but often that son is only fit to waste the father's money.

Vs. 15, The way we came into the world is the way we are going out, with nothing.

Vs. 16, Solomon calls it a great evil to go out as we came in, but is it really evil? Perhaps what Solomon was expressing was the fact that there was only a hope of resurrection, thus it was a great loss to leave all behind at death. But you see, death is the great equalizer, for at death we are all the same. We are all reduced to the same commonness, king, or beggar, statesman, or laborer. We are just another human being in the sight of God and loved equally by Him. We are no longer kings or queens, or Presidents or Vice Presidents, we are merely Mr. or Mrs. or Miss.

Vs. 16b, What can we gain if all our labors have been filled with wind, or with inflated values? We pump air into tires, footballs, and basketballs, and labor can be pumped full of wind if it is merely something that is done because we must earn a living.

Vs. 17, A person living this way is filled with anger, sorrow and frustration.

Vs. 18, It is good to be able to enjoy the fruits of your labors because this is what God wants us to do. But this can only be the end result of our labors when we are doing what we should do, with what has been given to us.

Vs. 19, God blesses us with gifts and we are to use them properly. This is the gift of God.



Vs. 20, Life flies by so swiftly and quickly, and we can only remember a small fraction of it. But God answers us in the joys of our hearts. In other words, we know when we are doing what is right, because we have the sense of joy and satisfaction in our hearts.

This is exactly what Jesus was pointing out in the portion of Scripture we read this morning. He told of a rich man looking to his inflated wealth and how it did him ~~exactly~~ no good whatsoever, because someone else was able to enjoy it after he had died, and all of his efforts to amass it went for naught. He told how we can only wear one suit at a time, or eat one meal at a time, and to think of today, and forget about the worries of tomorrow. He closed His discourse with the words, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

How many of us here this morning are working at the job we feel is really the one that is best suited for us? I'll not ask you to raise your hands, but I'll ask you to think it over in your own minds. Have you ever considered that God has a special plan and a place of employment for each of His children? The way to find it is to seek His help ~~through~~ and guidance and known through prayer. I have worked with many men who are bitter and frustrated, merely because they insist upon staying in a certain field or occupation simply because the pension is ~~so~~ good, or some other benefits are so great. It is not a matter of liking the job, or being suited for it, it is a matter of fringe benefits. Employers across the country tell us the first question asked by most young men who apply for a job, is not, "What is expected of me?" But is instead, "Do I get a pension? How about hospitalization? How many weeks vacation do I get?"

When I speak of getting into the right job for you, I speak from experience if you will forgive my getting personal today. I am here this morning because I kept trying to answer God's call in my life. As I look back over it, I see that He placed me in different positions, merely to train me, and prepare me for the next one. Finally at the tender age of 40, when some people say life begins, and I agree that it does, I entered

Seminary. For the first time in my life I knew that I was a square peg in square hole or a round peg in a round hole. God had finally placed me where He wanted me to be.

He can do the same for you. If you are dissatisfied with your work, or your occupation, don't hang on because of the benefits or the things that inflate labor. Place your problem squarely in the hands of God. I don't advocate that everyone who has a little gripe at their place of employment rush up to their boss tomorrow morning and declare "I quit." I do advocate that you look at yourself and your occupation in a new and honest way. Ask yourself, "Am I here because God really wants me here, or am I here because I can make the most money even if I must trade my pride, my dignity, and my Christianity to be here?"

We need to come to God and talk to Him just as we would an old friend. Tell Him how you feel about where you work, how you want to be where He wants you to be. Continue at your job and continue praying about it, and eventually He is going to tell you what to do. It may take the form of another job offer, or it may take the form of changing positions in the same organization, or staying right where you are. But you must open your life and your heart to God and <sup>and let His</sup> ~~the~~ Holy Spirit ~~to~~ work in you.

(Illustration of Chinese convert and how he prayed to God about his work)

Perhaps we need to each look anew at our daily life and labors. We have inflated labor to the extent that we <sup>about</sup> have lost sight of the commonplace in life. We need to think more the simple things of life and seek as Jesus tried to teach us, "to place our treasure where our heart is." If we do this, we will strive to lay up treasure in heaven, and strive less for the treasure of earth, that moths consume, and rust destroys. Solomon had it right when he said, "And what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?" May this not be said of any of us, but instead, may ~~xxxxx~~ "we seek the kingdom of God," and let Him add the proper things to our lives."



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 8, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHORUS DIRECTOR  
CHRIS CAMPBELL, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "LITANY OF THE BELLS" BAYLOR  
"ADAGIO" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

- \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 1 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!"
- \*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
- \*EXHORTATION
- \*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "FORGIVE US, O GOD, FOR OUR  
FEEBLE AND WEAK EFFORTS TO GLORIFY THEE. WE WOULD  
MAGNIFY THY NAME, BUT WE ERR AND STUMBLE ALONG THE  
WAY. WE HAVE SET UP OUR ALTAR, BUT WE BLUNDER AS WE  
CALL UPON THEE. TAKE AWAY OUR PRIDE AND MAKE US HUMBLE  
PERSONS, WORTHY OF WORSHIPING THY HOLY NAME. TEACH US  
THE WAY OF THE MASTER. GRANT US A TOUCH OF HIS HUMILITY  
AND GIVE US A PORTION OF HIS GRACE. OPEN THE PAGES  
OF HIS LIFE AND HELP US TO SEE THE SECRETS WHICH DREW  
HIM UNTO THEE. AND MAY WE, THROUGH MECKNESS, LEARN THE  
WAY HE WOULD BID US TAKE. AMEN."
- \*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
- \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
- \*PRAISE
- \*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
- \*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE
- \*DOXOLOGY No. 551
- SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 17: 1-23
- HYMN No. 380 "O ZION, HASTE, THY MISSION"
- \*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
- \*GLORIA PATRI
- \*CALL TO PRAYER
- \*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
- \*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
- \*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

- OFFERTORY: "MELODIE" TSCHAIKOWSKY
- ANTHEM: "AT WORSHIP" THOMPSON
- SERMON: "ALL ONE?"
- PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
- \*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 393 "O BROTHER MAN"
- \*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
- ORGAN POSTLUDE: "GRAND CHORUS IN A MINOR" DEMOREST
- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----
- THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MRS. GRACE RIDDLE IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".
- SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN  
SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.  
DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES FENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.
- SHORT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY.
- THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 163.
- NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY BARB VARGO AND  
KAREN KENNEDY.
- HOSPITALIZED: MRS. ELEANOR McWILLIAMS - ST. MARGARET'S  
HOSPITAL - PITTSBURGH. MR. LEO BALFAUF - V.A.  
HOSPITAL - PITTSBURGH. MR. LEO BALFAUF - V.A.
- FOR PAST 4 WEEKS. MRS. CYNTHIA SYBERT - BCMH -  
DAUGHTER - JENNIFER MARIE BORN SEPT. 5 -  
CONGRATULATIONS. *ANOTHER SISTER.*
- WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ROY PFLUGH ON  
THEIR 54TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TODAY - BEST WISHES  
AND MANY MORE.
- FRIDAY - 8:00 - ARC WEINER ROAST AND HAY RIDE AT  
THE HARRY FRY RESIDENCE - BRING YOUR OWN HOT DOGS  
AND BUNS. THE HARRY FRY'S AND BOB KNAUER'S ARE IN  
CHARGE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS. THIS WILL BE FOR ADULTS  
ONLY - ONLY ONE WAGON COULD BE OBTAINED.
- NEXT SUNDAY - SEPT. 15 - THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WILL  
HAVE THEIR FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR GRADES  
7 AND UP - THEY WILL ELECT OFFICERS.
- LADIES DON'T FORGET - THE SOUP AND SALAD WILL BE  
COMING UP SOON - OCT. 15TH. ITEMS SHOULD BE STARTED  
FOR THE BAZAAR TABLE. SEE ARTICLE UNDER WOMEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP - ANYONE HAVING VEGETABLES - PLEASE CALL  
LOIS WOGAN (282-1032) - EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.
- REMEMBER - SUN. 22 - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER - 5:30

WELCOME VISITORS: SIGN BOOK.

DISA - OUT OF TOWN - CALL ME.



"All One?"

John 17:21a. "That they may all be one."

Most of us have perhaps looked at the official emblem or insignia of the United Church of Christ and have noticed the wording printed around the outer edge of the emblem. In case you cannot remember what it says, it states, "That they may all be one." This is taken from the first portion of the 21st verse of the 17th chapter of the Gospel according to John, which we read as our Scripture for this morning. This ~~was~~ formed a part of the prayer which Jesus was praying before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This statement should raise questions in the minds of people as to just what it means. In the emblem of the U.C.C. is it to imply or to mean that all Christians are to be members of the United Church of Christ? Did Jesus mean it in this sense or was there another thought behind it?

Well, if we compare this to other statements that He made in the New Testament, we can readily see that this statement, "That they may all be one," ties in with His total thinking along a certain line. We read for instance in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Now the question arises, "Was Jesus saying that by preaching the Gospel to all ~~men~~ mankind, that "They would all become one?" Did He mean that everyone would become a Christian, merely by the telling of the Gospel? The answer is surprisingly, that many, many will hear the Word and reject it completely. He spelled this out in the parable of the householder, where the owner built a winepress, and planted vines and leased it to tenants. When he sent his servants to collect the fruits due him, the tenants killed the servants. So he sent still others and these were killed as well. Finally in desperation he sent his son to them believing that they would spare him. But the wicked tenants killed him as well. Jesus was comparing this parable to Himself and how men would reject Him, both in His own time and in the future.

But since we are aware ~~of the rejection of Jesus~~ that some will reject the Saviour, does not mean that we must abandon all efforts to reach mankind. It only makes it that

much more urgent. The fact that Christians have used this Scripture over and over does not minimize that it is our supreme task to "Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." This is known as the Great Commission. All else is secondary.

We need to ask why we haven't Evangelized the world in almost 2000 years. In Proverbs 29:18 we read, "Where there is no vision the people perish." We do not lack money. Last year churches spent enough money on new buildings to evangelize a hundred and eighty worlds this size. We don't lack manpower. Missionaries of this and the past generation have led tens of thousands to the Lord. The only bottleneck is that we lack vision---~~a~~ vision to do what we have been commissioned to do.

We must change our methods. In Roman 13:11 we read, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." There are 40,000 missionaries in the whole world of 3.7 billion people. Last year all of them by conventional means only reached one half of one percent of an unevangelized world. As a matter of fact, every time somebody was reached for the Lord by conventional ~~ministry~~ missionary work, there were 13 born.

But there is a Scriptural way to evangelize the world in this generation. In Mark 6:39,40 we read, "And He commanded them to make all sit down by companies on the green grass. And they sat down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties." When Christ was faced with feeding the multitudes He knew he had to <sup>use a</sup> ~~be~~ systematic method, hence He seated the people in groups of hundreds and fifties. If you will recall the vast numbers of people who came to the Billy Graham Crusade in Seoul Korea, you will remember that this method was used to determine how many people were in attendance. This is how they knew there were over 4 million at the one service. Sections were roped off ~~thxx~~ and each section had been measured and determined that it would hold so many people. Thus the knowledge of a fairly accurate head count.



Well, this is what Jesus was doing, and the disciples said, send them away, But Jesus said the multitude must be fed.

One way in which the multitude will be fed is by the every home crusade sponsored by the World Literature Crusade. In our Scripture for this morning we read as I said before Jesus praying to His Father, "That they may all be one; as Thou Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." In other words in a united effort we can do it. 415 denominations are cooperating in a program known as every home crusade, which is a systematic effort to place two Gospel booklets in every home in a nation. Every prisoner, hospital patient, university student and seaman is reached. Also a very thorough follow-up program is given to all new converts. Every day 1million new people are reached systematically with a printed Gospel message, written in their own language so they can understand it. For those who cannot read, talking messages are being prepared along with a picture type of booklet. These talking messages are low cost cassette of some kind. The beauty of this program is that the booklets are printed in the nation in which they are distributed. The print, the ink and the paper are ~~not~~ supplied by the nation involved. The work of preparing, printing and distributing is all handled by native born people. Thus, the program cannot be accused of being foreign or ~~not~~ being pushed by outside people. So far, one billion, one hundred and seventy million people, one third of the world have been systematically reached, and the World Literature Crusade is averaging 30 to 35 thousand written decisions each month.

Now why is literature the answer instead of conventional missionary methods? First, it greatly multiplies a missionary's outreach. It means that many thousands more can be reached than would be possible in the lifetime of that missionary. Second, it makes missionaries out of tens of thousands of dedicated national Christians. It puts more people into the spreading of the Word, than have ever worked at it before. And third, it enables a person to ponder and re-read what Christ has offered to those who put their trust in



Him. In the privacy of their homes the people can make their decision, spoken to by the Holy Spirit, without pressure of any kind.

In John 17:4, Jesus prayed, "I have glorified Thee on earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." World Literature Crusade provides toms of literature free of charge to your missionaries along with the methodology to reach every man. Five dollars will provide the Gospel to 1000 people. Every Christian could provide 12,000 people with the Gospel next year for ~~5~~ 5 dollars a month and the finishing of the task that God gave to man could be accomplished.

I wonder how many of you saw the telecast on August 25 for 5 hours on WIIC. If you saw all of it or part of it, would you please raise your hands. Thank you. Now I suppose you were wondering what the change in the usual style of sermon was all about. Well, it came about because I had a free lunch. World Literature Crusade sponsored a luncheon in Pittsburgh prior to Aug. 25, while I was on vacation. Selected ministers and wives were invited. So, Shirley and I went. WIIC picked up the tab for the luncheon and for the five hours of telecasting on Aug. 25. So you can see there are still some people who are interested in spreading the Gospel. Immediately following the luncheon after the mission of World Literature Crusade had been explained to all of us, we were asked if perhaps we would share it with our people. So, since I was full, and sort of felt an obligation I volunteered to share it with you, and thus this message.

If any of you would be interested in supporting this work we could supply you with the address so you could do with it as you saw fit. Now mind, I am not soliciting money for anyone, I am merely making you aware of a worldwide effort to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When you stop to think that one mailing and preparation of the Readers Digest, the paper, the print, the ink, the packaging and so on, could give the Gospel message to 8 billion people which is ~~another time as many people~~ twice the number of people in the world today, when you consider this, you can realize how we waste millions of dollars, while the world all around us falls apart for lack of something to hang

on to. When we speak of the World Literature Crusade, we are speaking of work that is being done outside of the United States. At the present time the effort to evangelize America is not <sup>BEING</sup> ~~be~~ undertaken on this sort of scale. The reason being the much greater cost that it would take to do it here. Thus we must be involved in spreading the Word by any available means at any and all opportunities which is why as you probably read in the latest Newsletter, we are pursuing the possibility of going on Cable TV. You as members of this church will not be solicited to support this ministry, but if you would know of any businesses <sup>OR BUSINESSMEN</sup> that would like to support the spread of the Gospel in this area, please let me know, so I may contact them.

Each day that we delay the spreading of the Gospel message to all creatures is another day that is wasted. We must be about our Father's business, for now is the accepted time, <sup>TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION</sup> today is the time to work, for the night is coming when man can work no more. May God grant us the desire, the strength, and the necessary resources to spread His Word throughout this area, and throughout the world.

STANDARD STEEL CORPORATION



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 15, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: AT AN OLD TRYSTING PLACE - - - MAGGOWELL  
GALILEE - - - - - CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 21

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O CHRIST WHO HAS CALLED US  
IN LOVE TO BE ONE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH GOD,  
FORGIVE US WHEN WE HAVE NOT BEEN TRUE TO YOUR CALL;  
WHEN OUR FAMILIES HAVE NOT BEEN ONE IN CHRIST DIRECTING  
US TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH THROUGH A CHURCH UNITED IN YOUR  
NAME; WHEN WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO LEARN YOUR WILL FOR  
US; WHEN WE HAVE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND OUR COMMUNITY  
AND ITS NEEDS FOR HEALTHY GROWTH. BE MERCIFUL AND  
UNDERSTANDING, GRANTING US FORGIVENESS AND THE WILL  
AND DESIRE TO GROW IN CHRISTIAN UNITY. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: TITUS 11

HYMN No. 229

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

\*OFFERING

ACOLYTE PIN CHRIS CAMPBELL

OFFERTORY: REVERIE - - - - - DEBUSSY  
ANTHEM: PEACE BE STILL - - - - - BY PALMER  
SERMON: PLAIN TALK  
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER  
\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 15  
\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN  
ORGAN POSTLUDE: MARCHE - - - - - LACHNER

\*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES FLEGER  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARLY TAIT  
JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR, AND DON KINGSLEY.  
DEACON AND MRS. ROBERT KNAUER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.  
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT  
AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 209.

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - 7TH GRADE AND UP.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

MONDAY - 6:00 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TUREEN DINNER.

WED. - 6:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - SALAD SMORGASBORD.

BRING A SALAD AND YOUR TABLE SERVICE - DESSERT

AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED. ANOTHER FEATURE

OF THE EVENING WILL BE A FARMER'S MARKET, SO

BRING BAKED GOODS, JELLY, CANDY, ETC.

THURS. - 10:00 - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING - ITEMS

FOR THE BAZAAR AT THE SOUP'N SALAD SUPPER WILL BE

MADE. BRING A SANDWICH AND DESSERT AND BEVERAGE

WILL BE PROVIDED.

SEPT. 22 - NEXT SUNDAY - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER -

SENIOR CHRISTIANS WILL BE HONORED AND THEY ARE

EXPECTED TO BRING NOTHING. OTHERS ARE TO BRING

GENEROUS TUREENS - 5:30. CHET STAUFFER WILL BE M.

HOSPITALIZED: CATHY SHEPPECK ROOM 418

MONDAY - SEPT. 16 - 7:30 - SPIRITUAL COUNCIL WILL

HAVE A MEETING.

RICHARD WULFE 456

WELCOME VISITORS

OCT 27, 7:00 P.M. SERVICE FOR SHUT-IN'S COMM.



2nd vs, P point out T 2 instruct older men of church in virtues admired respected by all  
 These instructs not elders church, but Senior citizen  
 I ructs 2 women same vs.3  
 With age come wisdom/dignity/experience  
 there4 older man/woman show by life/examp how liv  
 vs 4 what older peop can teach younger  
 Yg womwn be temp, show love 4 hus & fam,  
 mind own bus, no gossip, be clean/neat,  
 obedient hus.  
 Not mean be told what do all time, but be wife  
 & hus work at be hus.  
 In this manner Word of God not scandalized by  
 improper liv & those outside church see what is  
 & means be Xpian.  
 vs 6, yg men advised be sober minded,  
 tend bus, be proper member society.  
 Then P adds some advice T 2 follow own life  
 In vs 9, servants told how live/act  
 2 be obed, no talk back,  
 no steal as many did from employer,  
 they 2 be truthful/faithful in manner Js. Xp.  
 Then message what God did in world again brot out  
 by P. to show reason for liv life in new diff way  
 P. close chap by advise T.,  
 "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all  
 authority. Let no man despise thee."  
 He tell speak plainly, urge peop live this manner,  
 but also liv life of love, so no man hate U  
 Thus have message 4 2day as well.  
 It message "Plain Talk," & simple speech  
 It messsage God's love as evidenced in life/min/detk  
 Js. Xp.  
 Many areas society hear much/understand little  
 In rel. comm, many voice raise tell many thing in  
 multi-syllabled words/phrases, few if any understand  
 Insted should be hear things readily understood.  
 Good examp minister at lunch  
 (Illustration fireman making speech) #5  
 What make fireman speech so wonderful?  
 He from heart  
 It just "PLAIN TALK"  
 Not fancy adjectives/flowery phrases,  
 but basics he knew bout job & he put heart/soul  
 in it

# "Plain Talk!"

Titus 2:1, "Speak thou the things which become  
 sound doctrine." #1  
 If I began this morn by saying, (read whereas etc.)  
 Most U would ask, "What he try say?  
 Those who legal mind recognize #going jargon as  
 something conveyed, deeds/wills, legal documents  
 4 most part, no speak this manner.  
 2 do so be like man want here senator speak  
 (Illustration senator speak)  
 We make lite fact times we hear/read things no under  
 stand  
 However, it actual happen unfortunately, & this  
 exasperating if U ever encountered it.  
 Theolog's good exam this at times  
 Let me illustrate:  
 Man from start time tried show cause/effect evil,  
 & how it can exist without God be able control it.  
 Eng. theo. by name M.B.Ahern wrote book,  
 called, (What else?) The Problem Of Evil.  
 Here exmps his writing: #3  
 (Illustrate this)  
 I think perhaps all U have idea point I make,  
 If U understand what he talk about on either an  
 abstract, specific, or concrete plane about problem  
 of evil,  
 the specific abstract problem of evil, or the  
 specific concrete abstract problem of evil,  
 I sure wish U tell me.  
 Maybe old conserv preach had best answer bout evil  
 (Illustration this radio preacher) #4  
 But this only copout, & doesn't answer quest either  
 Merely nother form doub/talk.  
 This P. admonish Titus about  
 He tell T. talk plainly, give facts & details  
 that sound/true/basic  
 He seek have T share with peop. Crete truth plain  
 & simple.  
 P. write 1st vs, (read text)  
 P's main purp 2nd chap share with T, work of true  
 minister & pastor.  
 T in turn 2 use knowl in deal little flock &  
 help by instruct, by share, by set examp own life

This what P. had mind 65 AD when wrote T. 3/  
 Timeless words, just true 2day as were 1900 yr ago  
 Words that should speak 2day to young & old/married  
 & single/children/grandchildren,  
 "PLAIN TALK" that Js. Xp. is the same yesterday,  
 today, and forever."  
 Let us always remem 2, "Speak thou the things which  
 become sound doctrine."

"Plain Talk!"

Text: Titus 2:1, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

If I were to begin this morning by stating, "Whereas the pastor, hereinafter to be known as the party of the first part, and the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, hereinafter to be known as the party of the second part, do hereby covenant together in that the party of the first part will conduct services of worship at the convenience of the party of the second part at a time and place to be designated by the party of the second part in agreeement with the party of the first part," I am sure most of you would <sup>ask</sup> ~~exclaim~~, "Just what is he trying to say?"

For those of you who are legally minded, you would perhaps recognize ~~this~~ the foregoing jargon as being something that is conveyed on deeds, and wills and other legal documents. For the most part we do not speak in this manner. To do so would perhaps be similar to the man who hurried to hear a certain senator speak at a local rally. He arrived late. ~~He~~ As he was entering the auditorium he met a man who was leaving. He asked him ifvthe senator had spoken yet. The man replied, "He is speaking now, and has been doing so for the last half hour." "What is he talking about?asked the man. "I don't know," was the reply, "he hasn't said yet."

We make light of the fact that there are times when we hear and read things that we cannot understand. However, it is something that actually happens unfortunately and it is something that is exasperating if you have never encountered it. Theologians are a good example of this at certain times. Let me try to illustrate this. Man has from the beginning of time, tried to show the cause and effectvof evil and how it can exist without God being able to control it. An English theologian by the name of M. B. Ahern wrote a book on this subject and he entitled it, (what else?), the Problem of Evil. Here are a few examples of his writing:

"It will be argued that the whole subject of God and evil has been in a confused state, due to failure to separate questions that are different and to keep in clear the precise nature of each question."

We are lead to believe by this sentence that the author will make the



problem clear. He goes on to say:

"It will be shown centrally, there are three distinct kinds of problem about the logical capability of God and evil. It will be maintained that the traditional problem of evil is fundamentally an abstract problem and that it is a problem about evil in general. It will be claimed that besides the traditional problem there are other distinct problems which concern specific evil. Some of these are fundamentally abstract problems which ask ~~if~~ whether the existence of God is compatible with specific evil. The others are concrete problems which ask whether the conditions for compatibility are met in the whole world. The former class of problems will be called the specific abstract problem of evil and the latter class will be called the specific concrete problem of evil. There will then be three kinds of problem about the logical compatibility of God and evil designated. It will be argued that it is essential to distinguish the general problem of evil from the ~~abstract~~ specific problem and that it is essential to distinguish the abstract problems, whether general or specific, from the concrete problems."

"This study is concerned with both the specific and general problems."

Now this may seem simple enough for the author and no doubt he knows exactly what he is trying to say. To make sure the reader understands all of this he quotes a source dating back to 342 BC, written by a man named Epicurus.

"God either wishes to take away evils, and is unable; or he is able, and is unwilling; or he is neither willing nor able; or he is both willing and able. If he is willing and ~~unable~~ unable, he is feeble, which is not in accordance with the character of God; if he is able and unwilling, he is malicious which is equally at variance with God; if he is neither willing nor able; he is both malicious and feeble and therefore not God; if he is both willing and able, which is alone suitable to God, from what source are evils or why does he not remove them?"

Well, I think that perhaps from all of this you have an idea of the point I am trying to make. And if you understand what he is talking about on either an abstract, specific, or concrete plane about the problem of evil, the specific abstract problem of evil, or the specific concrete abstract problem of evil, I sure wish you would tell me.

Maybe the old conservative radio preacher had the best answer available about the problem ~~ix~~ of evil in the world. He told the story of God's creation and of man's disobedience to God and the result of sin and evil coming into the world. He wanted to prove to point to his audience beyond a shadow of a doubt, but he had to get Satan here on earth before the fall of Adam and Eve or his whole argument was lost. He shouted into the microphone



at his unseen audience;

"My Christian friends, do you know when Satab came upon earth? Do you know when evil came down to tempt man and to lead him away from God? No? Well, I'm going to tell you!

Satan was kicked out of heaven by God who got tired of his nagging and he came down to ~~tempt~~ earth to tempt man. And I want you to understand friends, that this happened between the second and third chapters of the book of Genesis."

But you see this is a copout and doesn't answer the question at all. It is merely another form of doubletalk and this is what Paul was admonishing Titus against doing. Paul was telling him to talk plainly, to give the facts and the details that are sound and true and basic. He was seeking to have Titus share with these people on Crete the truth plain and simple. Paul writes in the very first verse: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

Paul's main purpose for writing to Titus in this second chapter was to share with him the work of a true ~~pastor~~ minister and pastor. Titus in turn was to use this knowledge in dealing with his little flock and to help them by instruction, by sharing with them, and by setting an example with his own life.

In the 2nd vs he points out that Titus is to instruct the older men of the church ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the virtues that are admired and respected by all. These instructions were not to the elders of the church but to the Senior Citizen men. The instructions to the women are the same in vs 3. With age should come wisdom, dignity and experience. Therefore an older man or woman can show by life and example how to live.

In vs 4 what the older people can teach the younger is brought out. The young women are to be temperate, to show love for husband and family, to mind their own business, not be gossipers, to be clean and neat, to be obedient to their husbands. This does not mean that they are to be told what to do all the time, but to work at the job of being a wife, and the husband is to work at being a husband. In this manner the Word of God will not be scandalized by improper living and those outside the church would see what it is and means

to be a Christian.

Vs 6 young men are advised to be sober-minded. To tend to business and be a proper member of society. Then Paul adds some more advice that Titus is to follow in his own life. In vs 9 the servants are advised in how to live and act. They are to be obedient and not to talk back. They are told not to steal from their employers which is what many of them were doing. They were to be truthful and faithful in the manner of Jesus Christ.

Then the message of what God has done in the world is once again brought out by Paul to show the very reason for living life in a new and different way. And Paul closes the chapter of this letter by advising Titus, "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." He is telling him to speak plainly and to urge his people to live in this manner, but also to live a life of love, so no man can hate him.

Thus we have a message that we can share today as well. It is a message of "Plain Talk," and simple speech. It is the message of God's love for the world as evidenced in the life, ministry and death of Jesus Christ. In many areas of society we are hearing much, but understanding little. In the religious community many voices are raised in telling us many things in multisyllabled words and phrases, which few if any can understand. Instead we should be hearing things we can readily understand. A good example of this is the story a minister told about being in a dining room at lunch time. Before he could finish his meal and leave a man got up and announced that another man was going to make a speech. He introduced the Chief of the Fire Department, while all the while the minister was hoping he could get up to leave. But since he had paid for his lunch, he was determined to eat it, and leave as best he could. The Fire Chief started off by stating, "I aint no sneaker." But as he started into his speech he pointed out things most people in that room never thought of. He told how most folks never knew the number of the fire department and so had to look it up if needed. He told that many people would light a match to see how much gas was in the gas tank or can.



he told how on the average one garage caught fire everyday. The minister found himself becoming more and more engrossed in this man's speech until he did not want to leave, but wanted to hear what this man had to say. At the end of the speech he said again, "I aint no speaker. I been in the fire department ever since I was a kid. I Don't know nothin except how to fight a fire." The minister sat there thinking to himself, "Mister, you may not be strong on grammar and your speech may not be accepted in many places, but if you only knew it, you are making one of the best speeches I ever heard."

What made the fireman's speech so wonderful? It came from the heart. It was just "Plain Talk." Not a lot of fancy adjectives or flowery phrases, but the basics that he knew about his job, and he put his heart and soul into what he had to say.

This was what Paul ~~had in mind~~ must have had in mind back in 65 AD when he wrote this letter to Titus. Timeless words, that are just as true today as they were 1900 years ago. Words that we should speak today to young and old, to married and single, to children and to grandchildren. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Let us always remember to, "Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his  
footstool for He is Holy.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 22, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

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ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" LITTLE  
"Lyle" RICHOLSON

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 30 "COME, WE WHO LOVE THE LORD"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "Most Holy God, who does search  
and purify the hearts of men; grant us to know ourselves  
as we truly are; open to us the condition of our souls;  
give us penitence and forgiveness for our sins, enable  
us with steadfast resolution to amend our lives; deliver  
us from the captivity of false thoughts and evil habits,  
that with unity of mind and peace of conscience we may  
have our full reconciliation with you, and be of the  
blessed company of all your faithful people; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOSHUA 6: 1-24

HYMN No. 304 "THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "MEDITATION" STICKLES  
ANTHEM: "HEAR OUR PRAYER" (WITH SAX OBLIGATO)  
BY RUBENSTEIN

SERMON: "G.U.B.I."

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 226 "DEAR LORD AND FATHER"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MAESTOSO"

DOIGE

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. H. F. SANDOACH IN MEMORY OF "MOTHER" - MRS.

E. M. PERRIN.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT,  
ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE, STEVE SMITH, CHRIS PFABE.

SERVING IN NURSERY TODAY DURING MORNING WORSHIP -

MRS. LINNA McMILLIN, MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG, ELIZADETH  
ARMSTRONG.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 256.

DEACON AND MRS. ALVIN TAIT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

> TODAY - 5:30 P.M. - CONGREGATION DINNER - THE SENIOR  
CHRISTIANS WILL BE HONORED AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO  
BRING NOTHING. THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION PLEASE  
BRING ENOUGH TUREENS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ADDITIONAL.

IF ANY OF THE SENIOR CHRISTIANS NEED A RIDE - PLEASE  
CONTACT BILL PFLUGH (285-6837) OR LET US KNOW IN THE  
OFFICE. DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED.

> WE NEED SOME MEN TO HELP SET UP THE TABLES IN THE  
UNDERCROFT - RIGHT AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS  
MORNING.

THURSDAY - 7:30 - CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE  
MEETING.

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. AMELIA DREHER, DEBORAH MCBRIDE -  
MRS. MARY JANE WEISENSTEIN, MRS. SUSAN (PALMER) DRICKER,  
BABY GIRL.

> THE SHUT-INS ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE TAPES FROM THE  
SUNDAY SERVICES - AS YOU KNOW A LARGER MACHINE WAS  
PURCHASED, SO THAT IT WOULD NOT TAKE AN HOUR TO MAKE  
EACH TAPE. IT IS A GREAT ASSET TO OUR CHURCH. SHOULD  
YOU WISH TO PLACE A MEMORIAL OR A DONATION TOWARDS  
THIS NEW MACHINE - WHAT A TRULY GREAT AND LIVING  
MEMORIAL IT COULD BE FOR OUR OWN SHUT-INS.



Again trump sound, Josh call out fam Carmi  
His father's fam, his own bros/sis & fams  
Achan now terrified prob  
& then at last his name called, he stand B4 Josh  
Josh said 2 him (vs 19)  
So read Achan confess & once again G.U.B.I. had  
done its work.  
G's Univ. Bur Invest. gotten right man

We read Proverbs 15:3, (read text)  
We know this God all-seeing/all-knowing  
We may think can do things secretly not found out,  
but we only kid selves.

Ad & Eve do this & sin came into world  
K. David plot deth Uriah so have Uriah wife,  
God found him out.  
Jonah sot go against G's plan, & G. found out.  
Ananias & Sapphira lied piece prop & found out  
much like Achan

In all these instances we see G.U.B.I. at work  
Moses cautioned Isites in Num. 32:23,  
"Be sure your sin will find you out."

In Rev. 20:12 read: "And the books were opened: and  
another book was opened, which is the book of life:  
and the dead were judged out of those things which  
were written in the books according to their works."

Thus we realize we going answer 4 things we do/say  
Think of many modern Xpian much like Achan,  
many quiet conscience false belief G. not nearly  
as particular as Bible make out 2 be.

How often we can hear peop say, "U don't really  
believe G is that partic do U?"  
Or say something like, "Well, I realize isn't exact  
~~like what I should have said or done accord Bib, but it~~  
was such small thing."  
Or hear, "Well, it really wasn't an untruth, it  
just little white lie."

What tragedy will B some discover our modern ideas  
bout big sins/little sins, just as much out harmony  
with Word of G, as was Achans idea little theft only  
minor thing.

G'S Univ. Bur Invest may know all bout us, but not  
st keep in line, it because intense love 4 us  
He provided solution 4 our sin thru Christ

More he thot, more donvince must B some 1 else  
Some 1 do worse than he.  
After all, only trifles & he going use 4 family  
Only immediate family knew & they no tell

Had B some 1 else  
& so nite prob seem never end,  
Finally dawn & camp stir 2 life  
Preps made great assembly, peop move 2 & fro  
Still, Achan uneasy, "What if some 1 tell?"  
While thots disturb him, trump sound long/loud  
Peop hurry central area encamp.  
Quickly survey sit. & breathe sigh relief 4 there  
over 600,000 peop here  
How could 1 indiv be single out this crowd?  
With this assur Achan took place tribe Judah

But at this pt G.U.B.I. went work  
Fame Scot Yd & FBI well known,  
but long B B 4 God's Univ. Bureau Investigation  
was in operation

1st trige Judah singles out by Josh.  
This strange & perhaps Acham's family drew closer  
him, look him in fear.

But Achan reassur with, "So what, after all 76M  
in tribe Judah. Can't U see imposs task Josh has?  
Relax, play it cool."

Even as Achan try reassur fam. trump sound again  
Josh call out family Zerah as contain culprit

Zerah? Achan hart must beat faster,  
Why this great-grandfather, he himself 1 that fam.  
Must quickly look faces aunts/uncles/cousins C  
guilty face.  
He prob think 1 them did something terrible  
& why he/she no confess?

Again trump sound,  
Josh call out family of Zabdi,  
Why, this own Grandfather, Achan must thot  
All eyes turn immed relatives.  
Surely some 1 must step 4ward confess.

Little bit Achan taken not bother him,  
G not worried over few little trophies he take,  
one his relatives done something terrible,  
but who could it be?

glance up see Josh stare intently him.  
Should he go 4ward confess?  
No, couldn't do that, What peop think him?

We told, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and<sup>4</sup>/  
just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness." this I John 1:9,  
and in Heb. 7:25 we read,  
"Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost  
that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to  
make intercession for them."

Thus we assured we need only come to Him & accept  
Him as 1 who redeemed us from our sins,  
& we have not only forgiveness of our sins,  
but communion with Him each day, as we strive  
to live Xpian life.

"Be sure your sin will find you out," but also  
be sure that G's Univ. Bur. Invest not willing 1  
soul perish.

So He stand ready receive any & all who come to  
Him thru His Son.

Have U done this?

I urge U come to Him, cast self upon Him, & ask Him  
to live in your life.

"G.U.B.I."

Text: Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the Lord are in  
every place, beholding the  
evil and the good."

(Illustration little boy & God watching him)  
Perhaps many conjure idea God like this when think  
G. all-seeing/all-knowing

4 Scrip red fall Jericho, how Is. took city et all  
B4 battle warned Josh not take riches/riches 4 G.  
All B burned capt gold/silver/brass/iron,  
2B place G's treasury.

All Is. 2 obey rules,  
but in 7 chap read man tribe Judah, Achan, felt  
could disobey G. & not found out

Everything start out so innocently.  
Battle Jer. end, all city burned  
all things value taken 4 Lord

Now Is could recoup from battles, enjoy measure  
prosperity, rest assurance acted accord G's will  
Josh send men spy out Ai,  
when return tell not need all men 2 conquer

Josh send 3M in battle  
men Ai attack Is, kill 36  
Unknown Josh & Is. G withdrew favor cause Achan  
He steal what should go G's treasury.

Defeat disturb Josh so much we read (vs 6)

Josh cry to G & said, (vss 7-9)

G tell Josh what must B done (vss 10-15)

Now when Achan take beautiful coat styled after  
Babylon garments, must reasoned self,  
"Why let this B burned? What waste. No 1 know  
here, owner prob ded, shame destroy it."

& next it he find silver worth 200 shekels,  
& gold wedge worth 50 shekels.  
So take wrap in coat, bury in tent under rug.

Josh issue call peop assemble next AM  
If look sit thru eye Achan, lets put selves his  
place 4 moment.

He heard report some 1 sinned greatly against G.  
He also heard person be exposed next AM.  
His mind prob ponder quest whether he should  
go confess or not



"G.U.B.I."

Text: Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

For many years the name of Scotland Yard was synonymous with crime detection and the apprehension of criminals. Back in 1908 a ~~department~~ <sup>Bureau</sup> of Investigation was started in our country. In 1935 it became the famous Federal ~~Bureau~~ Bureau of Investigation that is equally famous throughout the world. But long before either of these organizations ever came into being, God had his Universal Bureau of Investigation in operation. I am sure that almost all of us have been told at one time or another that God is everywhere and that He sees all that we do and all that we say.

A mother whose little boy was extremely bad one day, was at ~~the end~~ <sup>the</sup> of her wits end, and finally had reached the point where she felt she had to do or say something to make him behave, blurted out to him, "You better start behaving, because you know that God is watching you and He sees everything that you do and ~~xx~~ <sup>hears</sup> everything that you say." He answered, "Is that all He has to do all day, lay on his stomach up there and watch me?"

Perhaps this is what many others conjure up in their minds when they think about the possibility of God being all-seeing and all-knowing. For our Scripture this morning we read of the fall of Jericho and how the Israelites took the city and all that was in it. But before the battle took place they were warned by Joshua not to take any ~~xx~~ of the riches of the city for they were to be consecrated to the Lord.

~~xxxx~~ Everything was to be burned, except those things that would not burn, and these things were the gold, and silver, the vessels of bronze and brass and iron. These were to be consecrated to the Lord and placed in His treasury. All Israel had to obey these rules, but we read in the 7th chapter that a man of the tribe of Judah named Achan, felt that he could disobey these rules and not be found out. Everything started out so innocently. The battle for Jericho had been ended and all of the city had been burned, and all of the things of value had been taken for

~~for~~ the Lord. Now Israel could recuperate from her battles and enjoy a measure of prosperity, resting in the assurance they had acted in accordance with God's will. ~~But XXXXX, unknown to the rest of Israel, while they prepared to march on the way, the situation concerning the city of Ai, the Lord was angry with them~~ Joshua sent men from Jericho to spy out the land of Ai, and when they returned, they informed Joshua that all of the army would not be needed to conquer this town. So they sent 3000 men into battle against the army of Ai, and the men of Ai attacked them killing 36 of the Israelites. But unbeknown to Joshua and the Israelites this came about because God had withdrawn His favor and was <sup>some</sup> angered because Achan had stolen of the things that should have been placed in the treasury of the Lord.

This defeat disturbed Joshua so much that ~~he~~ we read (vs 6) And Joshua cried out to God and said, (vss 7-9) So God told Joshua what must be done (vss 10-15).

Now Achan the guilty party had taken a beautiful coat styled after the Babylonian garments. He had probably reasoned to himself, "Why let this beautiful coat to be burned. It seems like such a waste. The owner is dead, and no one knows it is here, it would be a shame to destroy it." And next to it he found silver worth 200 shekels and a wedge of gold worth fifty shekels. "Why give them to the Lord when his treasury is already full," he probably asked himself. And so he took them and wrapping the silver and gold in the coat, he dug a hole under the rug in his tent and buried them there for safe keeping.

Now Joshua had his instructions from God and he issued the call to have the people assembled the following morning. If we put ourselves in Achan's shoes for a few moments we can ~~probably~~ perhaps try to see the situation through his eyes as it were. He along with all of the rest of the Israelites had heard that someone in the camp had sinned grievously against the Lord. He had also heard that the person was to be exposed the next day. His mind must have pondered the ~~is~~ question as to whether he should go and



The more confess or not. ~~xx~~ he thought about it the more he must have convinced himself that someone else must have done something far worse than he. After all he had only taken a worthless garment, to be destroyed anyhow. No one knew of this except the members of his immediate family and they had not told anyone. It just had to be someone else. Probably the night seemed to never end for Achan, but ~~xx~~ at last the dawn came and the camp began to stir. Preparations were being made to hold the great assembly, and people were moving to and ~~from~~ fro. But still Achan was uneasy, "What if someone had told on him," he probably reasoned. And while his private thoughts troubled him the trumpet sounded long and loud. People hurried to the central area of their encampment. Quickly he surveyed the situation and then he must have breathed a sigh of relief, for there were over 600,000 people here. How could one individual be singled out from this crowd? With this inward reassurance Achan walked toward the crowd, and took his place among the tribe of Judah.

But it was at this time that God's Universal Bureau of Investigation went to work. First the tribe of Judah was singled out as the tribe in which the guilty party ~~was~~ was a member. That was strange and perhaps Achan's family drew closer to his side, and looked at him with looks of fear. But Achan could very easily have reassured them by saying, "So what, that doesn't mean anything. After all, there are 76,000 people in the tribe of Judah. Can't you see the impossible task Joshua has in finding us in such a large multitude? Relax, play it cool!"

But even as Achan was trying to reassure his family the trumpet sounded again, and Joshua called out the family of Zerah as containing the culprit. "The family of Zerah?" Achan must have asked himself, and his own heart must have begun to beat faster. Why that was ~~his~~ his great-grandfather. ~~He~~ himself was one of the family of Zerah. He must have very quickly looked over the faces of his uncles and aunts, his cousins, to see if he could detect there a guilty face. He must have been thinking that one of them had really done something terrible, and why didn't he or she confess it?

Again the trumpet sounded, and Joshua called out the family name of Zabdi. Why this was his own grandfather, Achan must have thought. All eyes turned towards his immediate relatives. Surely someone must step forward and confess. The little bit Achan had taken was not troubling him, God wasn't worried over the few little trophies he had, one of his relatives had done something terrible, -but who could it be?

He glanced up and ~~xxx~~ saw Joshua staring intently at him. Should he go forward and confess? No, he couldn't do that. What would people think of him?

Again the trumpet sounded, and Joshua called out the family of Carmi. His father's family. His own brothers and sisters and their families. Achan was probably now terrified. And at last the dreaded moment arrived and ~~he was called forward~~ his name was called and he found himself standing by himself facing Joshua.

And Joshua said to him (vs 19). So we read that Achan confessed, and once again the G.U.B.I. had done its work. GOD'S Universal Bureau of Investigation had gotten the right man.

We read in Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." We know from this that God is all seeing and all knowing. We may think that we can do things and not be found out, but we are only kidding ourselves. Adam and Eve did this and this is the reason we have sin in the world! King David plotted to have Uriah killed so he could have Uriah's wife, and God found him out. Jonah sought to go against what God wanted him to do and God found him out. Ananias and Sapphira lied about a piece of property and were found out much like ~~xxxx~~ Achan was. In all of these instances we can see the G.U.B.I. at work. Moses cautioned the Israelites that if they did not do as the Lord commanded they were sinning, and he says in Numbers 32:23, "Be sure your sin will find you out." In Revelation 20:12 we read, "And the books were opened : and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works."



Thus we realize that we are going to have to answer for the things we and say. The thinking of many modern Christian is much like Achan. Many of them are quieting their conscience with the false belief that God is not nearly as particular as the Bible makes him out to be. How often we can hear people say, "You don't really believe that God is that particular do you?" Or they will say something like, "Well, I realize that isn't exactly what I should have said or done according to the Bible, but it was such a little thing." Or more often we hear, "Well, it really wasn't an untruth, it was just a little white lie."

What a tragedy it will be to some to discover that our modern ideas about big sins, and little sins, are just as much out of harmony with the Word of God as was Achan's ~~idea~~ idea that his little act of theft was only a minor thing. God's Universal Bureau of Investigation may know all about us, but it is not just to keep us in line, it is because of His intense love for us. He provided the ~~xxx~~ solution for our sin through Christ. We are told that "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." "wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Thus we are assured that we need only come to Him, and accept Him as the one who redeemed us from our sins, and we can have not only the forgiveness of our sins, but communion with Him each day, to help us as we strive to live the Christian life. "Be sure your sin will find you out," but also be sure that God's Universal Bureau of Investigation, is not willing that one soul should perish, and so He stands ready to receive any and all who will come to Him through His Son.

It is good to sing praises unto the Lord, for He is great, and greatly to be praised. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 29, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAM FRY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE" RHEINBERGER  
"PASTORALE" BURNEY

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 23 "OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HAVE MERCY UPON US, O GOD, ACCORDING TO YOUR LOVING - KINDNESS; ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF YOUR TENDER MERCIES, BLOT OUT OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. WASH US THOROUGHLY FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS. FOR WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND OUR SINS ARE EVER BEFORE US. PURGE US AND WE SHALL BE CLEAN; WASH US AND WE SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW. CREATE IN US CLEAN HEARTS, O GOD, AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN US. CAST US NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM US. RESTORE TO US THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD US WITH A WILLING SPIRIT. IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 13: 13-33

HYMN No. 280 "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AT PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "OVER THE STARS" ABT

ANTHEM: "ONLY A WHISPERED PRAYER" BY MEREDITH WOMEN'S CHORUS

SERMON: "A FISTFUL OF ACES"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 318 "NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "POSTLUDE" MOZART

--- \*CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MRS. MADGE TRACE IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND" -

ARTHUR C. TRACE.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALVIN TAIT, MIKE NAZARUK, ROBERT STEWART AND RICHARD MANGEL.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR THIS MORNING.

SERVING IN NURSERY TODAY DURING MORNING WORSHIP -

MRS. JUDY SNYDER AND PATTY BASERERE.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 219. *EVERETT MCCORMICK*

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. AMELIA DREHER, MR. WM. A. WINTERS,

RAYMOND MILLER - BOMH: LEO BALDAUF - V.A. HOSPITAL.

OUR CHURCH HAS CHARGE OF USHERING PATIENTS TO SERVICE AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. IF YOU ARE ASKED OR YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE DO SO - CONTACT BILL PFLUGH - HE NEEDS ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET.

TODAY NINE (9) OF OUR YOUTH ARE AT THE YOUTH RALLY

AT CAMP LIVING WATERS - THIS WAS A TWO DAY EVENT.

TODAY - LAKE ERIE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT SHARON - 2:30 - 8:00 - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO YOU WOULD BE WELCOME.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION WILL BE NEXT SUNDAY AT 11:00 A.M.

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY - OCT. 13 - BAPTISM.

TUESDAY - OCT. 15 - SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY MEMBER OF CIRCLES.

MON - 7:30 - CONSTITUTIONAL REV. COMM. MEETING.



His promise imparted by Js Xp He not leave comfort2/  
 See evidence H. Sp. many areas life, less  
 if willing place all aspects life His hands  
 Ne see God supplies all material needs His child.  
 4 isites took form supply needs 40yr wilderness  
 states, "Forty years bore He their manners in  
 the wilderness."  
 By this he mean God patiently listened their grumblings  
 & moan about life & how treat them.  
 Don't U imagine God still patiently listening our  
 grumblings/groanings 2day?  
 I sure He is,  
 But I also sure many times we not rt kind peop  
 2 B grumbling/groaning because many times our  
 probs self-inflicted.  
 Good examp this is situation many parts world  
 (Illustration living 100 dollar a year.)  
 This good illus what happening in world  
 We publicize this & question why permitted,  
 why it happen?  
 Others may question "Is this an examp of God givin  
 aces to His children?"  
 This good question,  
 but answer lie inner circles denoms  
 Many times spend money things should take 2nd place  
 Govt officials more concerned keep prices up  
 certain commodities, thus many things rot, thrown  
 away,  
 but could be dist/marketed for needy in world  
 But America pay for waste as peop & nation  
 Wf talk inflation shortages, they present cause  
 sl richness & greed  
 Js talked God aware of sparrows & needs, & how God  
 more concerned His children.  
 He tells God supply needs in life.  
 (David Brainerd tells God supply needs illustration)  
 This 1 ace, God supplied 4 his peop many centuries,  
 But He also expect man help dist. supply He give  
 mankind.  
 Next, we C God given His peop Salvation.  
 He not only content merely supply comfort hrs need,  
 Or supply material needs,  
 But had save them from themselves  
 This He promised would come thru David  
 This He did altho children Is. refuse accept Js  
 Nazareth as MESSIAH

# "A Fistful Of Aces!"

Text: Exodus 14:8b, "And the children of Israel went  
 out with an high hand."

Scripture: Acts 13:13-33

In 2days mod world almost any 1 recognise ace hi ran  
 Military circles ace 1 overcome more of enemy  
 peop remark beloved true friend, Aces with me  
 thus signify he greatest

In card circles "Fistful of Aces" unbeatable

In Ex. 14:8b we read (read text)

I aware this no imply Isites cardplayers

Let us put this/this context this AM to simplify

In 13th chap Acts Paul's 1st sermon

P. & Barn come Antioch on Jew Sabb

After reading of Law/prophets from sacred

scrolls, they invited speak

Paul was speak Jews/Jewish setting

words of sermtold history God done them as peop

He told them of unbelief in Messiah

Cannot know sure, but must been murmurings,

discontent as upstart preach stood B4 them &

tramped on toes.

P begin vs 17 tell God chose peop,

He quote Ex. 14:8, wrongly,

he often do this, quote memory & wrong

He convey message, but misquote

ACES, vs 17 #1, #2 vs 18, #3 vs 19, #4 vs 20,

#5 vs 21, #6 vs 22, #7 vs 23, #8 vs 24-26.

Now this add up 8, only 4 in deck,

But God always give more than given Him

This lesson every Xpian should know,

cannot outgive God,

More U give, more He give U

Here in Acts 13, capsulated form history P

shared Jewish peop,

God given "A Fistful Of Aces"

From this portion scrip some things we can apply

present day & age.

See 1st God sufficient needs of all peop

(Illustration Promises of God, Barnhouse)

G helps peop times stress to give calm assur He

there.

Thus God not only fulfilled prophecy by send 3/ ~~4~~  
Son into world,

But He provide means salv 4 mankind which ours 4  
So n all this we C not only provided Children is taking  
down thru ages with "A Fistful Of Aces",  
He also provided U & me with "A Fistful Of Aces  
as well.

What He gave Ab, Is, Jac, Dave, Sol, P & others  
is ours too

What a hand hold as go thru life

The Hand Of God, "A Fistful of Aces"

Can U not C my friends that with all this we riche  
any king ever reigned?

As "Children of Israel went out with an high hand,"  
so can we by taking the Fistful Of Aces that God  
extends to each His children.

& let us never forget that though life may have toll  
troubles, we always have a Saviour that closer any  
earthly friend,

& we need thank God each day 4 Him,

4 He is God's Ultimate gift to our hand.



"A Fistful Of Aces!"

Text: Exodus 14:8b, "And the children of Israel went out with an high hand."

Scripture: Acts 13:13-32

In todays modern world almost anyone recognizes that an ace is the highest in rank. In military circles, an ace is one who has overcome more of the enemy than the rest of their comrades. People remark about ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a beloved and true friend

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "He is aces with me," thus signifying that he is the greatest. In card circles, a ~~hand~~ "Fistful of Aces" is an unbeatable hand.

(Perhaps an illustration of card playing here)  
a portion

In our Scripture this morning we read of Paul's first recorded sermon. Now it does not spell it out in this scripture, so I am taking what is known as literary license to make a comparison between this Scripture, and relate it to our day, our thinking, and to use something we can use to make it more understandable.

~~Paul~~ In Exodus the 14th chapter ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> latter part of the 8th verse we read, "And the children of Israel went out with an high ~~hand~~." Now I am well aware that this verse does not imply cardplaying on the part of the children of Israel. But let us just put it in this context this morning to simplify it for our understanding. Now this particular verse is quoted by Paul in the portion of Scripture we read this morning. In the 13th chapter of Acts, ~~xxxxxx~~ we read of Paul's first recorded sermon. Paul and Barnabas had come to ~~Antioch~~ Antioch and went to the Synagogue on the Jewish Sabbath. After the reading of the Law and Prophets from the sacred scrolls, they were invited to speak as was the custom.

Paul was speaking to Jews in a Jewish setting and the words of his sermon first told of the history of what God had done for them as a people. and secondly he told them of their unbelief that the Messiah had come and lived among them. Now we do not read all of the ramifications of what Paul said, but one cannot help but feel there must have been some murmurings and discontent as this upstart of a preacher stood before them and tramped on their toes.

Paul begins (vs 17), by telling that God had chosen this people and had lifted them above the Egyptians among whom they lived. He tells them, quoting from Exodus 14:8, "And with an high arm brought he them out of it." We need to understand that many times Paul quotes Scripture from the Old Testament, but many times he misquotes it. Of all the Biblical personalities Paul is one who relies upon his memory for scripture and more often than not misquotes it. This is not to say that Paul was unable to convey the message because of this, it is merely to point out what he did on many occasions.

When God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt as Paul states it in vs 17, we could call this one ace. Ace 2 is vs 18, #3 vs 19, #4 vs 20, #5 vs 21, #6 vs 22, # 7 vs 23, #8 vss 24,25. Now perhaps you may be thinking that there are only 4 aces in a deck of cards, and you are right. But when we are talking about God, we must always remember that God does not act or do things as in a normal circumstance. God always gives back more than is ever given to Him. If there is one lesson that every Christian should and must be aware of, it is the lesson that you absolutely cannot outgive God. The more you give, the more He will give in return. And here in the capsulated history that Paul shared with these Jewish people, God has given the children of Israel "A Fistful of Aces."

Now from this portion of Scripture there are some things that we can apply to our present day and age. We see first that God is sufficient for all of the needs of His people.

(Illustration of the promises of God, from Barnhouse)

God helps His people in times of stress to give them His calm assurance that He is there. His promise that was imparted to us by His Son Jesus Christ was that He would not leave us comfortless. Thus we can see the evidence of the Holy Spirit in many areas of life if we are willing to place all aspects of our life in His hands.

Next we see that God supplies for the material needs of His children. For the Israelites this first took the form of supplying their needs in the wilderness for 40 years. Paul states it, "Forty years bore He their manners



in the wilderness." By this he means that God patiently listened to their grumblings and moanings about life and how it was treating them. And don't you imagine that God is still patiently listening to the grumblings and ~~groan~~ groanings of His people today? I am sure He is, but I am also sure that many times we are not the right kind of people to be grumbling and groaning because many times our problems are self-inflicted. A good example of this is the situation in many parts of the world.

(Illustration of living on 100 dollars a year)

This is a good example of what is happening in the world. We publicize this type of thing and we question why it is permitted, and why it happens, and all of the other things that remain unanswerable about it. Others may well question hunger and starvation in our world today by asking, "Is this an example of God giving Aces to His children?" Which is a good question, but the answer lies in within the inner circles of our denominations. We are more concerned with spending dollars in too many areas that should take secondary priority. Our government officials are more concerned about keeping the prices of certain commodities up, and the way to do this is to let certain crops rot, rather than have them marketed and distributed to the needy throughout the world. America is going to pay for its extreme waste as a people and as a nation, and rightly so. We talk of inflation and shortages, and they are present today, because of our selfishness throughout the world. Jesus talked of God being aware of the sparrow and its needs, and how God is more concerned over his children than the birds. David Brainerd was a missionary to the American Indians in the early days of our country. He tells the story of the ~~providence~~ God supplying his needs at one point in his life.

(Illustration #908 2400 Quotations, illustrations)

This is one of the aces God supplied for His people down through the many centuries, but He also expects man to help distribute this supply of what He has given for all mankind.

Next we see that God has given to His people Salvation. He was not content to ~~only~~ <sup>merely</sup> be sufficient <sup>to supply</sup> ~~for their material needs~~ comfort for their hours of need, or to supply for their

material needs. But He had to save them from themselves. This He promised to do through His servant King David. And this He did, although the children of Israel refused to accept Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. ~~But this we can see from all of this that God~~ Thus God not only fulfilled prophecy by sending His Son into the world, but He provided a means of salvation for mankind, which is ours for the taking. So in all of this we can see that God not only provided the children of Israel down through the ages with "A Fistful Of Aces," but He also provided you and me with "A Fistful Of Aces," as well. What He gave to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, Paul and all the rest is ours too.

What a hand to hold as we go through life. The Hand of God, "A Fistful of Aces." Can you not see my friends that with all of this we are richer than any king that ever reigned? As the "Children of Israel went out with an high hand," so can we by taking the Fistful Of Aces that God extends to each of His children. And let us never forget that though life may have its toils and troubles, we always have a Saviour that is closer than any earthly friend, and we need to thank God each day for Him, for He is God's ultimate gift to our hand.



~~Give the Lord with gladness~~  
~~and in his presence with gladness~~  
~~and in his presence with gladness~~  
~~and in his presence with gladness~~

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCT. 6, 1974

COMMUNION SUNDAY - AMERICAN INDIAN SUNDAY

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

PAULA STEPHENSON, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "KYRIE ELEISON" MOZART

"COMMUNION" GUILMANT

"IN HIS TEMPLE" BLAKE

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 470 "SAVIOUR, THY DYING LOVE"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*INVOCATION

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "GOD'S MORNING" CLARKE

ANTHEM: "O LORD, GIVE US ALL" JOHN LEWIS

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"

\*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER \*INSTITUTION \*AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL ALL ARE SERVED)

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 158 "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

\*POSTLUDE "TE DEUM LAUDAMUS" NORDMAN

- - - - \*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - -

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. LARRY R. FALKNER TO THE "GLORY OF GOD".

ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON STAUFFER, LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE McRIDE.

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL SERVE AS USHERS TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. AMELIA DREHER,

MR. W. A. WINTERS, MISS CLARA SHAKELY.

MR. EVERETT McCANDLESS - WEST PENN HOSP. - PITTS.

MR. LEO BALDAUF - V.A. HOSPITAL.

MRS. NELLIE HUGHES WILL BE 93 TOMORROW, 103 MORTON

AVE. - SHE LIKES TO BE VISITED AND WOULD APPRECIATE

A CARD FROM YOU.

MRS. GRANVILLE COOPER WAS 77 YESTERDAY - IT IS STILL

NOT TOO LATE TO REMEMBER HER.

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - EACH YOUTH IS

ASKED TO BRING A PAIR OF SCISSORS.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMM.

THURSDAY - 7:30 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND

ALL TEACHERS MEETING - UNDERCROFT - IMPORTANT.

NEXT SUNDAY - BAPTISM - SHOULD YOU WANT YOUR BABY

BAPTIZED AT THIS TIME - PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH

REV. LINK.

DON'T FORGET - TODAY IS AMERICAN INDIAN SUNDAY -

IF YOU FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPE - THERE ARE EXTRA ONES

IN THE NARTHEX.

IS IT SOUP YET? - NOT YET - HOWEVER, SOME INGREDIENTS

ARE STILL NEEDED. Did you read your NEWSLETTER?

11 QTS. OF STRING BEANS, ONIONS, CARROTS, CABBAGE

AND PARSLEY, ALSO FRESH TOMATOES FOR SALAD. GET

IN TOUCH WITH LOIS WOGAN (282-1032) OR MARY LOU

DAVIS (283-1182) IF YOU CAN SUPPLY ANY OF THESE.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MOST ANYONE IN THE CIRCLES.

BAZAAR ITEMS ARE NEEDED - HANDIWORK, BAKED GOODS,

CANDIES OR ANYTHING APPROPRIATE FOR THE BAZAAR TABLE.

THIS MONTH - ST. PAUL'S HAS CHARGE OF WHEELCHAIR

PATIENTS AT THE DESHON - CONTACT BILL PFLUGH IF YOU

COULD POSSIBLY HELP OUT - BEFORE AND AFTER THE 9:00

SERVICE AT DESHON V.A.

THERE WERE 191 PERSONS PRESENT LAST SUNDAY.

COMMUNION CARDS ARE IN THE PEWS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE

TO HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR HOME CHURCH (IF YOU ARE

VISITING) PUT THE NAME OF CHURCH AND ADDRESS ON CARD.

THE YOUTH CHOIR WILL BE STARTING FOR ANYONE IN GRADES

4 AND UP. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE.

Welcome visitors, please sign register.

Judy Vinroe birthday today.

"Make Believe?"

Text: Hebrews 9:22

Scripture: Hebrews 9:

(Illus kids wrong Beliefs) Fine 4 kids, but we shud Bliev right: Espec things of church

(Illus Buechner, Presby, AD April 73, A,B,C, Salv)

How can any<sup>1</sup>, espec preach Bliev this, & preach it?

Examp Al Johnson & pres consist "We all kno Js just giv thank 4 food & 2B allow B with group 3 yrs"

Is this all it is, Make Bliev we celebrate wrong,

" " " ladies make coffee, eat donuts & talk

Commun not this & if U Bliev let me educate:

1. It institut By Js 2 prep discip 4 His sacrif

after He ded they got point

(Use words institut) He compar blud, body 2 Bred, wine

He set asid as symbol His sacrif,

& this plump 1 who no-smell Aqua Velv wud never want

U 2 Bliev I Js XP. This insult Js & blasphemy

SECOND: He sed brok bod, shed blud had signif, specif=

4 Remiss sins, other word He giv 4 mankind 2B 4giv

(READ TEXT) & interpret:

Heb law say sacrif B made 4 -4givness sins

2 Offer animal, had 2 giv up lif & lif man/anim blud

Blud keep liv & wen shed lif given up

Js shed blud Calv & sacrif made

SO WITH SHED HIS BLUD THER WAS NOW 4giv SINS THRU HIM

Altho He did & price paid 1nce 4 all, signif sacrif our livs we sin daily

So cum 2 L'S Sup cert occas & seek 4giv 4 sins

Heard preachers say, "MUST NOT DWELL ON PAST SINS"

Must cum 2 Js, accept He die 4 us, & wen we do this we

clensd & 4givn sinners,

Must no rehash sins past over, over 4 negate Js sacr

Jn " He FAITHFUL & JUST 2 4giv sins & 2 clens unright

This purp L'S Sup & no other, we no swallow Js etc.

We gather 2 ask G 2 4giv sins we commit sinc last tim

" meet as common sinners/I sam as U, no better,

We do this IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM

Js blud shed 4us, Body brok 4us,

Ther cud B no 4giv if no tak place

This AM we wud B kill anim & sacrif on that altar

2B 4giv, if Js no pay price 4 us

Mak no mistak L's Sup 2B partak by thoz who cum 2 hav sins 4giv.

It 4 penitent sinners & 4 no other purpose

The sacrifice of Js Xp was not MAKE BLIEV, BUT WAS MADE 4 BLIEVERS.



COMMUNION

"Make Believe?"

Text: Hebrews 9:22, "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

1973

In the April issue of AD magazine there was an article entitled ~~the~~ "The A, B, C's of Salvation", which was written by the Rev. Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian minister. The article spelled out the different things about the Christianity using each letter of the alphabet for ~~xxxxxxthe things~~ first letter of the doctrine or sybol used. For instance F was for faith, and ~~xxxxxxforxxxx~~ L was for the Lord's Supper. Much of what he wrote I cannot agree with and in particular what he wrote of the Lord's Supper, is completely unacceptable to anyone I firmly believe. I must say in fairness to him that some of the things he wrote were right on and in line with what we should believe, and these points I can accept. But let me share with you what he wrote about the Lord's Supper.

(Quote his interpretation)

After I read this I asked myself the question, "How can anyone, especially one who calls himself a minister of our Lord Jesus Christ, serving Him in the ministry of a church, believe this, or worse yet, put it down ~~forxxxx~~ to help others to believe this way?" But shortly after reading this article, I received a letter from a friend of mine who is serving a three point charge in Edinburg, Virginia, that led me to believe that there are many Christians who are misinformed, or believe wrongly about what the Lord's Supper is. This friend wrote that at one of the Consistory meetings, the President of the Consistory made the remark, "Why we all know that Jesus was just giving God thanks for the food on the table, and having been allowed to be with such a wonderful gropp for three years."

really  
Now if this is what communion means, then I believe we are celebrating it in the wrong manner. If this is all it is, or if it is "Make Believe" as Mr Buechner would have us believe, then I suggest we send some of the ladies downstairs to put on a pot of coffee, and get some rolls or doughnuts, and Let's just sit around and drink coffee and eat rolls, and talk about inane

little things this morning.

But Communion is not either of these things I have quoted, and if any of us here this morning believe Communion to be this, then let me educate you as to what the Lord's Supper really is.

First, it was ~~instituted~~ instituted by Jesus Christ with His disciples to prepare them for His sacrifice. He did not explain everything to them in detail, but they got the point after He was taken out and killed. At the meal, "He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, 'Take and eat, this is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.' In like manner he took the cup after they had supped, and He gave it to them and said, 'Take and drink, this cup is the New Testament of my blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'" Now please note, that Jesus was saying His body, and His blood were to be compared with the bread and wine. He set these two elements aside to be eaten and drunk as a symbol of Him and what He was about to do. He did not say that this Communion was "Make Believe" or that whenever it was observed ~~"The plump person who breaks the bread~~ the bread and the wine were actually His body and blood, but that they only represented His body and Blood. And this plump person who does not ~~xxx~~ smell of Aqua Velva, (because I do not use it), would never under any circumstances want you to make believe that I am Jesus Christ. This is an insult to Jesus Christ to ever believe that a human being ~~ix~~ could ever stand in His place, and besides that it is blasphemy.

Secondly, He said that the broken body, and the shed blood had the significance of being broken and shed for a specific purpose. And that purpose was, in His words, "For the remission of sins." In other words, He was giving His body and His blood, so that mankind could be forgiven of their sins. The author of Hebrews pointed out in our Scripture for this morning, (read the t t). What he was saying was that according to the old Hebrew Law, a sacrifice had to be made for the forgiveness of sins. In the case of offering up an animal it required that the animal had to give up its life, and the life of anything whether it be man or animal is the blood. It was the blood as they



considered it that kept life going and naturally when the blood was shed, life had been given up. Thus in the case of Jesus, He gave up His blood on Calvary and the sacrifice had been made. So with the shedding of His blood, there was now forgiveness of sins through Him,

Now, although He gave His body and His blood for the forgiveness of sins, and the price has been paid once and for all, the significance of this sacrifice is that in our lives we commit sins daily. So on certain occasions we meet together and we partake of the Lord's Supper, and it is at this time that we eat the bread and drink the cup, and as we eat and drink, we ask God to forgive us for the sins we have committed. But as someone was telling me just this past week, ~~we~~ and I also heard one of my favorite radio preachers say it, we should not dwell on our past sins. We must come to Jesus accepting that He died for us, and this death when <sup>we</sup> ~~I~~ acknowledge Him, cleanses us from all our past sins. So when we hash and rehash all of the ~~things~~ sins of the past, we negate the sacrifice of Jesus. John tells us, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Thus, come to Him and have your sins blotted out, washed away, and remembered against you no more. Come to His table and partake of the heavenly food prepared for you, and walk away from His table cleansed and made whole again.

This is the purpose of the Lord's Supper. For anyone to say we meet together to share our humanness, or to make believe that we are swallowing Jesus' life into our own, or to say that it is only a meal of fellowship and fun, is sheer nonsense.

We gather about the Lord's Table to come to God in humility and in penitence, to ask Him to <sup>forgive us</sup> ~~cleanse us~~ for our sins which we have committed since last we came to Him seeking forgiveness. We meet as common sinners. I am on the same level as you, and am just as great a sinner as any of you, and by the same token ~~there~~ none of you are any better than me or anyone else. We are common sinners who need this bread and this cup to cleanse us and make us whole again, and this we do "In remembrance of Him."

Jesus blood was shed for us, His body was broken for us. There could be

no forgiveness of sins if this had not taken place. This morning we would be killing and shedding the blood of some animal and offering it upon that altar as a sacrifice to God in hopes that we might be forgiven, if Jesus had not paid the price for us.

So make no mistake about it, the Lord's Supper is to be partaken of by those who come to have their sins forgiven. It is for penitent sinners, and not for any other purpose. The sacrifice of God's only Son was not "Make Believe," but was made for believers.



Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 13, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
SHARI McBRIDE, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

-----  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "DREAMS" BIZET  
"BENEATH THE ELMS" VEON

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 7 "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 23: 13-33

HYMN No. 252 "TAKE THOU OUR MINDS, DEAR LORD"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "PETITE PASTORALE" CAREY

ANTHEM: "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY" MEN'S CHORUS

SERMON: "ONLY A MOUTHPIECE!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 253 "TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL"

BAPTISTE

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON IN MEMORY OF ROLAND'S "FATHER" MR. HOWARD THOMPSON.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY AND STEVE VARGO.

ELDER ROBERT TAIT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 264.

THE AMOUNT OF \$162 WAS COLLECTED LAST SUNDAY FOR THE AMERICAN SUNDAY - YOU CAN STILL PUT YOUR ENVELOPE IN THE COLLECTION ANY SUNDAY THIS MONTH. *CLAM 11/1/74*

\*HOSPITALIZED: MRS. AMELIA DREHER - BCMH; MR. EVERETT McCANDLESS - WEST PENN HOSP. PITTS; MR. LEO BALDAUF - DESHON. PAMELA SUE GRAY BORN TO MR. & MRS. DONALD EUGENE GRAY JULY 26, 1974 AND KELLY SUE MANGEL BORN TO MR. & MRS. RICHARD MANGEL ON AUG. 23, 1974 - BAPTIZED TODAY.

\*TUESDAY - OCT. 15 - 5:00-7:00 - SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER PLEASE HAVE ITEMS FOR THE BAZAAR TABLE IN BY MONDAY AND NO LATER THAN TUESDAY MORNING. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CIRCLE CHAIRMAN OR MOST ANYONE IN ONE OF THE CIRCLES.

WED. - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. LINK.

SIX (6) WOMEN ARE NEEDED FOR WHEELCHAIR AIDES AT THE DESHON FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF MONTH. CONTACT MARILYN STEPHENSON 287-7938 IF YOU CAN HELP.

MRS. LEO BALDAUF WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FOR THEIR PRAYERS AND CARDS AND FOR REV. LINK'S VISITS - HER HUSBAND IS A PATIENT AT DESHON.

MRS. COOPER APPRECIATED THE BIRTHDAY CARDS SHE RECEIVED LAST WEEK FOR HER BIRTHDAY AND WANTED US TO THANK YOU.

\*CHURCHES IN THE BUTLER AREA ARE SPONSORING SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES TO BE HELD IN CHURCHES AND HOMES.

\*"KICK-OFF" SUN. WILL BE OCT. 20. NORMA KNAUER IS SMALL GROUP CAPT. FOR OUR CHURCH AND AS SUCH WILL ORGANIZE OUR PARTICIPATION.

Welcome visitors, please come back

BETTY THOMAS HAS PETITION PLEASE SIGN.

& having continued protection of G. ~~xxxxxx~~ 2/  
~~xxxxxx~~,  
 "Yet they will lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the  
 Lord among us? No evil can come upon us."  
 Micah confronts group & passes sweep judgement on  
 them all & their works and says,  
 "Therefore, shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a  
 field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the  
 mountain of the house as the high places of the  
 forest."  
 He tell them Zion/which Jerus be destroyed  
 This proph had nerve stand 4th & shout their natl  
 shrine be complete/utterly destroyed.  
 That it become like plowed ground  
 All homes & what hold dear ruined,  
 & most of all this an affront to think beloved  
 city of Dave destroyed, & Beloved Temple as well.  
 1 oft repeated assurances of priesthood & proph's,  
 Jerus never destroyed.  
 G mite punish peop 4 sins & rain rath on them,  
 but He never destroy Temp  
 Relig ldrs almost 2 man, certain Jerus never destr  
 Somehow G intervene & not let happen.  
 U can imag how well receiv this news was  
 But M. say ~~xx~~ 4 your sake,  
 Because of U this 2 happ  
 U R bring about, because Of U this come pass  
 Picture if will how these peop must felt, hearing  
 distressing news.  
 As looked beaut bldgs, wonderful city, magnif Temp  
 if columns, courts/altars, & all be rubble  
 Could anyone bear this burden 2 even think this  
 wanton destruct?  
 But we know in 586 city/temp burned  
 Micahs proph came true  
 and from this history U think Jewish peop learn  
 from experience  
 So not surpris in time Js, He lash out same think  
 same kind peop  
 But no need stop there/look our time/age we  
 see same peop.  
 In our nation sins larger cities/& sins smaller citi  
 increase large percentage  
 Crime rate up, immorality rampant/& sin in gen  
 rage on all sides  
 What a challenge set b4 xpian 2days world

# "Only A Mouthpiece!"

Text: Micah 3:11,12,  
 "Her heads judge for reward, and her priests teach  
 for hire, and her prophets divine for money; yet  
 will they lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the  
 Lord among us? No evil can come upon us. Therefore  
 shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and  
 Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of  
 the house as the high places of the forest."  
 Question: What is pharisee?  
 Most wood answer "Man who observed law."  
 Some wood say "men disliked/distrusted by Js & dis.  
 Both correct/but in fairness really relig peop  
 Is strict adher relig laws/princip/reguls is salva  
 then Ph's 1st in kingdom.  
 Problem they overzealous interpret letter of law  
 Here they came conflict Js.  
 Scrip this AM scorching denunciation these men,  
 they lead many astray doomed to Hell, simply by  
 their interpretation of law.  
 But 8 centuries be4, nan stood B4 leaders as well  
 as peop of Is & condemned 4 same things.  
 Naturally he not speak same auth Js,  
 but his message similar & he speak 4 G.  
 Man named Micah, his message in 7 short chaps.  
 In 3rd chap 11,12 vss we read, (read text)  
 What Micah say it was money not princip guided leads  
 in dealings.  
 He refer judges accept bribes/rule in favor them  
 He cater those can influence them most.  
 For keeper sacred law & also his duty reveal it to  
 peop thru words/& life  
 Proph's prophesy for money,  
 if person came gave money, then prophesy good  
 things that person.  
 They not speak truth as G reveal it, but speak  
 what they want hear.  
 Art of digining similar fortunetelling  
 Those divined told future by cast lots, watch birds  
 in flight.  
 Sort of like we amuse selves by tell it hard/easy  
 winter by stripes woolley worm, or by how early  
 birds go south etc.  
 But these peop no do amuse, but for money.  
 2 compound trub, they all do under guise relig



What chance 2 speak out gainst sin/corruption, 3/  
just as Js & Micah did  
We cannot overcome degeneracy by remain mute  
We need instead become "Mouthpieces" as were for G.

What is "Mouthpiece?"

Several definitions

Musical circles, a Mpiece is object placed on end  
instr.

When instr. played help make beaut music

But if Mpiece just ~~lay~~ <sup>lying</sup> shelf/table it "Only A Mpiece"

There 1 other Mpiece we refer in life ~~IT SPEAK OF~~  
& that is slang term we refer 2 in life & that lawyer  
A Mpiece this case, 1 who <sup>Be</sup>pleads case of another

& this what we as xpians must <sup>^</sup> & should do.

cWe 2 B mpieces of G.

This what Micah was & all other proph's

We 2 B proph's, not in sense Is, Jere, Ezek, etc,  
but B Mpieces in that we speak out & 4 G.

Hue & cry in nat. what wrong our country?

What happ leaders? Where we turn?

Answers 2 all quests remain each us individ

If not like what go on, (& all must agree we don't  
then must speak out B herd

But again peop ask, "What can 1 person do?"

(Illustration one man in arenea)

Not many us have oppor make change in world,

But reform or reviv any kind begin 1 man.

Someone must start, & if 1 starts no know where end

1 mother Charleston W.Va, start campaign gainst  
school books

Peaps we need check our system, instead ask what  
wrong with kids

We can speak out by let pres, congress know what we  
want & do not want.

We can go out vote 2 elect rt peop officd

Black comic Dick Gregory say, "We can decide not to  
be controlled by a few degenerate men," & he right

We can use voice thru pen as well as vocal

But we need B mpieces by all we say & do.

By live closer G we show word/deed we witnesses 4 Lor  
in all of life.

Let us never thinkselves be "Only A Mouthpiece" 4

we must B more than that. Anyone can B just that

unfort many xpians just this. ~~ONLY A MOUTHPIECE~~

G. needs each & every 1 speak out/witness 4 Lord  
all areas life.

Let us insted each b that mpiece makes us instr 4 G.

"Only A Mouthpiece!"

Text: Micah 3:11,12,

"Her heads judge for reward, and her priests teach for hire, and her prophets  
vine for money; yet will they lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the Lord  
among us, No evil can come upon us. Therefore shall Zion for your sake be  
plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the  
house as the high places of the forest."

Scripture: Matthew 23:13-33.

If I were to ask you, "What is a Pharisee?", most of you would answer  
they were men who observed the law. Some of you would probably say that  
they were men who were disliked and distrusted by Jesus and His followers.  
Both answers are correct. But, we should first of all state in fairness to  
them that the Pharisees were the most religious people who ever lived. If  
the strict adherence to rules and regulations and laws were salvation, then  
the Pharisees would be the first in the kingdom. Their problem was they  
became overzealous to interpret the letter of the law. Here is where they  
came into conflict with Jesus Christ. We read as our Scripture a scorching  
attack upon these men, and how they were leading many to be doomed to hell,  
simply because ~~they~~ of their interpretation of the law.

But the really strange thing about all of this is that approximately 8  
centuries before this a man stood before the leaders as well as the people  
of Israel, and condemned them for the very same things. Naturally he did  
not use the same language or speak out as authoritatively as Jesus, but his  
message was similar, and he was speaking for God.

The mans name was Micah, and his message, ~~xxxxxx~~ is to be found in 7  
short chapters in the book named after him. The portion that I am making  
reference to this morning is found in the 3rd chapter and ~~xxx~~ using the  
11th and the 12th verses. We read there, (read text).

What Micah was saying was that it was money and not principle that guided  
the leaders in their dealings. He is referring to judges accepting bribes  
and forvruling in favor of those who could pay them the most. The priests  
he takes to task because they cater to those who can influence them the most.  
~~xxxxpriestxwasxpaidxbyxxxxxxx~~ A priest was the keeper of the sacred law,  
and it was also his duty to ~~xxxxxx~~ reveal it to the people through his words



as well as by his life. The prophets were attacked by Micah because of the practice of prophesying for money. In other words if a person came and gave them a certain sum of money, then the prophet would prophecy good things for that person, not speaking the truth as God would reveal it through the prophet, but speaking what that person paid to hear. The art of divining was similar to that of fortunetelling. Those who divined told the future by casting lots, or observing flights of birds or some other things. It would be sort of like the amusing ways we tell it will be a hard ~~winter~~ or easy winter by the stripes on the wooly worm, or by how early the birds head South or some of the other things we use as guides. But these people did not do it out of amusement, but for money.

And to compound the problem Micah points out, they do all of this under the guise of being religious, and having the continued protection of God. "Yet will they lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the Lord among us. No evil can come upon us." So Micah confronts this group of leaders with their shameless and mercenary ways, and he passes a sweeping judgement on them ~~all~~ and on all their works. He says, "Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest."

He is telling them that Zion, which is another term for Jerusalem, will be destroyed. This prophet has the nerve to stand forth and shout that their beloved national shrine is to be completely and utterly destroyed. That it was to become just like plowed ground. All of their homes and things they own and hold dear. And most of all this an affront to even think of such dire circumstances for this is the City of David and the home of their beloved Temple.

One of the oft repeated assurance of the priesthood and of the prophets, that Zion would not be destroyed. God might punish the people for their sins and rain his wrath upon them, but He would never destroy His Temple. The religious leaders ~~to~~ almost to a man, were certain that Jerusalem would

never be destroyed. Somehow or other God would intervene and not let this happen. So you can imagine how well received this bit of news was from this prophet.

But Micah pointed out in his words, "For your sake." Because of you, this is going to happen. You are bringing it about. Because of you this must come to pass. Picture if you will how these people must have felt when hearing this distressing news. As they looked about them at the beautiful buildings and wonderful city, with its magnificent temple with its stately columns and pillars, its courts and its altars, and all of this was going to be reduced to rubble. Could anyone bear this burden to even think of such wanton destruction? But we do know that in 586 BC the city and the Temple were burned. Thus Micah's prophecy did come true. But even with all of this history behind them, you would think that the Jewish people would have learned from experience. ~~But we see that in the time of Christ, a few centuries later, the same problems prevail among them.~~ So it is not surprising that in the time of Jesus He was lashing out at the same kind of thinking and the same kind of people. But one need not stop there, we only need look at our age and our times and we can see that we are still surrounded by these kinds of people.

In our nation today we see that the sins of our larger cities as well as the sins of our smaller cities have increased by a large percentage. The crime rate is up, immorality is rampant, and in general sin is raging on all sides. What a challenge that is set before the Christian in today's world, to speak out against the sin and corruption just as Jesus and Micah did. We cannot overcome sin and degeneracy by remaining mute. We need instead to become "Mouthpieces" as it were for God. What is a "Mouthpiece?" There are several definitions. But the one I like is the definition that is used as slang. A "Mouthpiece according to this definition is a lawyer, or one who stands and pleads another's case. Micah pleaded God's case to the people. Jesus pleaded God's case to the people also.



that is  
In musical circles a "Mouthpiece" is an object ~~when~~ placed on the end of an instrument, and the instrument is played it helps to bring forth beautiful music. But if the "Mouthpiece" is just lying on a shelf or table, it is just that, "Only A Mouthpiece." There is one other "Mouthpiece" that we refer to in life, and that is the ~~"Mouthpiece"~~ slang term we apply to a lawyer. A "Mouthpiece" in this case is one who pleads the cause of another. And this is what we as Christians are to be and do. We are to be "mouthpieces" of God. This is what Micah was, and all the other prophets. We are to be prophets, not so much in the sense as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Micah and the others. But to be Mouthpieces in that we speak out and for God.

The hue and cry in our nation today is, "What is wrong with our nation?" What has happened to our leaders? Where are we to turn? " The answers to all of these questions remain with each of us undividually. If we do not like what is going on, and I think we can all agree we do not, then we must speak out and be heard. But again people ask, "What can one person do?"

(Illustration of man who braved the arena pg 86 Barclay, Matthew vol 2 )

Not many or perhaps any of us may ever have this kind of opportunity to make changes in the world. But a reformation or revival of any kind, begins with just one man. Someone must start it. It can begin in a ~~home~~ private home, or where an individual works. But if one man or woman starts it, no one can ever know where it will end. A ~~group~~ mother in Charleston West Virginia questioned the textbooks this year that are authorized by the school board as required reading in the school. One mother against a school board. Changes are being instituted in the system there. Perhaps we need to question what is being taught in our schools here, to see if perhaps there are influences being exerted on our children that should not be exerted. We can speak out by writing our president and our congressmen to let them know how we feel about some of the irresponsible things that are going on. We can also speak out by voting. ~~This is how we can be "Mouthpieces" and be effective.~~ The black comedian Dick Gregory says, "We can decide not to be controlled by a few degenerate men," and he

is right. We can use our voice through pen ~~and~~ as well as being vocal. But above all we need to also be "Mouthpieces" by all of what we say and do. By living closer to God we can show by word and deed, that we are the witnesses for our Lord, in all of life. But let us never think of ourselves as being ~~"Only Mouthpieces"~~ "Only A Mouthpiece" for we must be more than that. Anyone can be just that, and unfortunately too many Xpians are just this. God needs each and everyone of us speaking out and witnessing about our Lord, "Mouthpiece" in all areas of life. Let us each instead, be that ~~instrument~~ that makes us an instrument for God.



Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
in the city of our God, in the mountain of His  
holiness.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST      OCTOBER 20, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAULA STEPHENSON, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

-----  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE LOST CHORD"      SULLIVAN  
                  "TRANQUILITY"      CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 50 "STILL, STILL WITH THEE"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "HAVE MERCY UPON US, O GOD, ACCORDING  
TO THY LOVING-KINDNESS; ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF THY  
TENDER MERCIES BLOT OUT OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. WASH US THOROUGH-  
LY FROM OUR INIQUITIES, AND CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS. FOR WE  
ACKNOWLEDGE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND OUR SIN IS EVER BEFORE US.  
PURGE US AND WE SHALL BE CLEAN; WASH US AND WE SHALL BE WHITER  
THAN SNOW. CREATE IN US CLEAN HEARTS, O GOD, AND RENEW A  
RIGHT SPIRIT WITH US. CAST US NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE,  
AND TAKE NOT THY HOLY SPIRIT FROM US. AMEN." - --PSALM 51

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: GENESIS 4: 1-15

HYMN No. 275 "O LOVE OF GOD MOST FULL"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

BAPTISM OF INFANT - JENNIFER MARIE SYBERT BORN SEPT. 5  
TO MR. & MRS. ROBERT SYBERT

OFFERING      "AUTUMN"      STICKLES  
OFFERTORY

SOLO: "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"      PETERSON  
                  -- -- VON MALONEY

SERMON: "RAISING ABEL!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 289 "SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE"  
(STANDING FOR ALL THREE VERSES)

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "POSTLUDE IN F"      THYGERSON

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. GUY ARMSTRONG IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT,  
JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACONESS MRS. ANN WILLIAMS WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT  
THE DOOR TODAY.

TONIGHT - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - EACH YOUTH IS  
ASKED TO BRING A STAPLER.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS MEETING.

WED. - 7:30 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMM. MEETING.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT  
AND PATTY BASEHORE.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 212.

HOSPITALIZED: MISS CLARA SHAKELY, MRS. ELIZABETH  
CLARK, BOMH; EVERETT McCANDLESS - WEST PENN HOSP.  
PITTS.; LEO BALDAUF - VA HOSPITAL.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

MR. & MRS. COYLE FOWLER WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR  
40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TODAY - BEST WISHES.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY - FRIDAY - NOV. 1ST AT GRACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH - 7:30 P.M. SUBJECT - "THEY HAVE A  
DREAM" BY MRS. OAKLEY WEAVER. SPONSORED BY GREATER  
AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

A BABY GIRL WAS BORN TO MR. & MRS. LARRY R. FALKNER,  
41 CAROL DRIVE SAXONBURG 16056 - OCT. 1ST. NORTH  
HILLS PASSAVANT HOSP. (MRS. FORMER ANN STROUP)

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR VOTING  
TO SUPPORT ME IN MY TRIP TO DAYTONA BEACH NEXT MARCH  
FOR THE EVANGELISM SEMINAR. WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT,  
I COULD NOT ATTEND. -- -- THANK YOU, DEB MELTON.

REV. GRANVILLE COOPER WAS MADE CHAPLAIN OF SUNNYVIEW  
HOME - HE IS SO HAPPY AND WE ARE HAPPY FOR HIM.

NEXT SUNDAY - 3:00 P.M. - SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE  
FOR THE SHUT-INS, AT THE CHURCH.

from all this we gather jeal something from which 2  
need B delivered B4 consumes individ completely &  
~~need~~ leads dire circum.

C guilty overwhelm anger, read, "So C was very angry  
Anger nother emot need control  
Uncontrolled anger perhaps been respons more deths  
bo ly injury any other emot.  
Vic Hugo "Eride robs me of God, envy of my neighbor  
anger of myself."

From this short vs C inflame jeal/anger/consum anger  
4 brother, ~~WHICH CROT IN HATRED.~~  
So much so, he lured bros field kill him  
C's action separate from G.

Even 2 this day when some 1 in wrongdoing what  
do say?  
We say, "He/she raise C," do we not?

Sometimes we laff as tho funny which isn't.  
We say bout young fellow, "Must sow wild oats."  
or, "He must raise C."  
But does he?

Is rt us say boys B boys, or girls do those things  
Is rt us pass off sin this way?

Should we not insted B strive teach children/selves,  
"Raise Abel?"  
Wouldn't B better all concern we strove emulate  
good bros insted bad 1?

We all fall heirs sins flesh Bcause 4fathers,  
but just cause we heirs sin, does not mean we need  
wallow in it, 2 know what it is.

There those who lead us this kind think, & because  
of we have all kinds loose living 2day.  
We have free love/free sex/new morality & all other  
poor excuses flagrant sin which rampant on scene 2da

Yg peop ask us, "How can I know I can live with cert  
girl unless I 1st live 2gether no get married?"  
WE R told yg peop must experiment drugs know how to  
avoid them.

If we follow this equation to logical conclusion, I  
suppose I need go out rob bank know what steal is.  
Or, I need murder some1 know what kill is,  
All which make no more sense than other arguments  
can B used salve conscience any1 who wants flag-  
rantly do wrong & sin.

G. tell us thru P. in Romans, "The wages of sin is  
deth."

this wert took place episode C. & A.

### "Raising Abel!"

Text: Gen 4:5, "But for Cain and his offering He  
had no regard. So Cain was very  
angry and his countenance fell."

Scripture Gen. 4:1-15

From story Cain/Abel lot said, lot left undaid  
We read 1st part 4th chap A shepherd/Cain farmer  
1 keeper sheep/other tiller of ground  
Both worthwhile reputable occupations.

Then read C brot offer fruit of ground  
& A bring 1stlings of flock as offer to G.  
Read Lord had regard for A & offer, then TEXT (rea

Several theories as why A accepted & C not  
1st A brot animal offer & C did not  
Animal could B sac & shed blood cleanse from sin  
& C brot grain/cereal offer & not proper offer  
If theory correct, ask, "Where does state C & A to  
bring animal offer?"

Answer: this not part text & not spelled out here.

2nd theory: A brot animal no spot blemish & C brot  
second ~~xxx~~ best of what he had.  
This plausible & explain why G regard A, & not C.  
Also from this we derive bring best to G.

Along all this we C logical progression sin in world  
& in man life stemming from orig sin Ad/Eve in garden  
we read (Text).

thus 1st fruits sin  
We & not only outward anger/but C hatred/jealousy  
all cause some 1 looked on more favor

Do not mean imply A more special site of G,  
but must realize Something A did placed his offer  
ahead of C's offer.

Hence, must believe A offer better than C.

If look C's feelings C they still with us 2day &  
need dealt with

C must had intense feel jealousy Bause statement,  
"and his countenance fell."

Other words, he dissapointed cause offer no receiv  
like A's

Thus C give vent intense feel if left uncontroll  
gnaws/eats persons very insides & erupts flagrant  
act to person whom directed

Weos dict define Jeal as some1 who resentful/envious  
Chrysostom "As a moth gnaws a garment, so doth envy  
consume a man."



& whether we admit or not, it happens in lives  
each us, when we disobey God have us do,

(Illustration Leonardo DeVinci & 2 models)

We may think no pay penalty sin, but we ~~do~~  
from this illus we C sin leaves mark someway upon  
soul.

Perhaps it not always evident exterior phys feature  
but distorts/wrinkles/twists/warps soul.

But prob with man always been he equates life that  
of others.

We look life of C exclaim, "I do things that wrong,  
but I no guilty murder my bros."

Perhaps not, but we can B so overcome jeal, we defame  
some1 life/character we all but kill physically.

We may show so much hatred 2 nother, we not only fil  
selves such poisonness thots that stunt Xpian growth  
but may unwittingly cause some1 do something rash  
by our rumors or gossip.

We may Bcome so filled anger we provoke some1 lash  
out 2 nother in violent words/deeds.

Yes, may not be guilty as C,  
but we all capable his deeds in diff ways equal dedly

But as all such area life, there chance live act as  
should.

We need not resign selves be separated from G as C  
4 even tho C bansih from presence of G, still he  
no destroyed,

This indication G ~~not will~~ *WILL NOT READILY* destroy His creation.

We may assur. pardon, "G has no pleasure deth of  
wicked, but that wicked turn from his way & live."

This only poss by come 2 Xp. confess sin & trust  
Him 4 forgiveness,

But also means we each must begin "Raising Abel," in  
lives, insted "Raise Cain."

Anyone can "Raise Cain" but takes person wants live  
as Xpian to "Raise Abel. *A PERSON WHO WANTS PORN AGAIN*"

& thus by "Raising Abel" we show we followers Xp.

& we can not only live this way in our lives, but  
we can pass it on 2 our fams, /friends.

Let us all strive live anew by "Raising Abel."

### "Raising Abel!"

Text: Gen. 4:5, "But for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry and his countenance fell."

Scripture Gen. 4:1-15

(Joke or illustration to begin)

From the story of Cain and Abel there is a lot that is said, but there is also a lot that is left unsaid. We read in the first part of this 4th chapter how Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground. One is a shepherd and one a farmer. Both worthwhile and reputable occupations. Then we read how Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock as an offering to God. Then we read that the Lord had regard for Abels offering, but that He had no regard for the offering of Cain. There have been several theories presented as to ~~why this~~ how and why the Lord would regard one and not the other. The first theory is that Abel brought an animal offering that could be sacrificed, and it required the shedding of the animals blood for the cleansing of sin, and since what Cain brought was probably cereal or grain as an offering, it was not the proper type of offering. Now if this theory is correct we must ask the question, "Where does it state that Cain and Abel were told to bring an animal offering?" The answer of course is that this is not a part of the text, and it is not spelled out as such.

A second theory advanced is that what Abel brought was an animal without spot or blemish and what Cain brought to be offered to the Lord was less than the very best fruit of the ground. This is a more plausible explanation and would explain why God would have regard for the offering of Abel and not have regard for the offering of Cain. ~~This~~ It is also from this theory that we derive our thinking about bringing the very best we have to God.

But along with this we can also see the logical progression of sin in ~~the~~ world and in the life of man, stemming from the original sin of Adam and Eve in the garden. We read in the 5th verse, "But for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry and his countenance fell." Thus we see the firstfruits of sin. We see not only outward anger, but we see



hatred and jealousy as well, & All because someone is looked upon with more  
do  
error. Now I ~~would~~ not mean to imply that Abel was more special in the sight  
of God, and thereby received special recognition, but by this story we must  
realize that something Abel did, placed his offering ahead of that of Cain.  
Hence, we must believe that on the strength of what we read, Abel's offering  
must have been better than that of Cain. If we look at the progression of  
feelings that Cain must have lived through, we can see that each one of them  
is still with us today and need to be dealt with in our lives.

Cain must have had an intense feeling of jealousy because of the statement,  
"and his countenance fell." In other words he was dissatisfied ~~in~~ because  
his offering was not received by God in the same as Abel's. Thus Cain was  
giving vent to an intense feeling that if left uncontrolled, gnaws and eats  
at a person's very insides until it erupts in some flagrant act toward the  
person to whom it is directed. Webster's dictionary defines jealousy as  
someone who is "resentful, or envious." St. Chrysostom says, "As a moth  
gnaws a garment so doth envy consume a man."

From all of this we can readily gather that jealousy is something from  
which we need to be delivered before it consumes the individual completely  
and leads to dire consequences.

Cain was guilty of an overwhelming hatred for his brother ~~xx~~ for we read,  
"So Cain was very angry." Anger is another emotion that needs to be con-  
trolled. Uncontrolled anger has perhaps been responsible for more deaths and  
bodily injury than perhaps any other emotion. Victor Hugo once said, "Pride  
robs me of God, envy of my neighbor, anger of myself." So from this one  
short verse we can see that Cain became inflamed with jealousy, anger and  
a consuming hatred for his brother. So much so, that he lured him out into  
a field and killed him. Thus we can see where Cain's actions separated him  
from God. And even to this day what is it we say when someone is involved  
in flagrant wrongdoing? We say he or she is "Raising Cain" do we not?  
Sometimes we accompany the statement with laughter as though it is something  
funny, which it isn't. We say of a young fellow that "He has to sow his wild

oats," or that he has to "Raise Cain," but does he? Is it right for us to  
us off sin and misbehaviour with inane remarks such as that, or to let it  
go as boys will be boys, or girls will do those things? Should we not  
instead be striving to teach our children and ourselves to "Raise Abel"?  
Wouldn't it be better for all concerned if we strove to emulate the good  
brother instead of the bad one?

We all have fallen heir to the sins of the flesh because of our early  
forfathers, but just because we are heirs of sin, does not mean that we  
need to wallow in it to know what it is. There are those who would lead us  
to this kind of thinking. & Because of it we have all kinds of loose living  
today. We have free love, free sex, the new morality and all of the other  
poor excuses for flagrant sin which are rampant on the scene today. Young  
people <sup>ask</sup> ~~ask~~ us, "How can I know that I can live with a certain girl unless <sup>or fellow</sup>  
unless we first live together for a while without getting married?" We  
ld that ~~xxxxx~~ people must experiment with drugs to know how to avoid them.

If we follow this equation to its logical conclusion, then I suppose I  
need to go out and rob a bank in order to know what stealing is. Or I must  
murder someone in order to know enough not to kill. All of which makes no  
more sense than any of the other arguments that can be used to salve the  
conscience of anyone <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ wants to flagrantly sin and do wrong. But God  
tells us through Paul in the letter to the Romans, "The wages of sin is  
death," and this certainly was what took place in the episode of Cain and  
Abel. And whteher we want to admit it or not it happens in the lives of  
each one of us when we disobey what God would have us to do.

~~xxxxxxthinkxxxxxxnotpayingxxpenaltyforxxsin,xxx~~

(Illustration Leonardo DeVinci and two models)

We may think we are not paying a penalty for sin, but we are. From  
his illustration we can see that sin leaves its mark in some way upon the  
sinner. Perhaps it is not always evident on the exterior physical features,  
but it distorts ~~and~~ wrinkles, ~~the soul~~ and twists and warps the soul.



But the problem with man has always been that he equates his life with that of others. ~~Man~~ We look at the life of Cain and we exclaim, "I may do things that are wrong, but I've never been guilty of murdering my brother. Perhaps not, but we can be so overcome with jealousy that we defame someone's life and character, that we all but kill them physically. We may show so much hatred toward another person that we not only fill ourselves with poisonous thoughts that stunt our Christian growth, but we may unwittingly be responsible for someone else doing something rash by our rumors or gossip. We may become so filled with anger that we provoke someone to lash out to another in violent words or deeds. Yes, we may not be as guilty as Cain, but we are all capable of his deeds in ~~a~~ different ways that are equally as deadly.

But as in all such areas of life there is a chance to live and act as we should. We need not resign ourselves to being separated from God, as ~~as~~ Cain. For even though Cain was banished from the presence of God, still he was not destroyed, ~~but he was not destroyed~~ This is an indication that God is not willing to destroy his creation. We say in the assurance of pardon that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked should turn from their way and live. This is only possible by coming to Christ, confessing our sin and trusting Him for forgiveness.

But it also means that we must begin <sup>each</sup> ~~in~~ "Raising Abel" in our lives instead of "Raising Cain." Anyone can actually "Raise Cain", but it takes a person who wants to live as a born again believer to "Raise Abel." And thus by "Raising Abel" we show that we are followers of Christ, ~~we can live this way~~ And we can not only ~~live this way~~ then in our lives, but we can pass it on to our ~~friends and relatives~~ families and friends, ~~and help others~~ Let us all strive to live anew, by "Raising Abel."

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.  
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

REFORMATION SUNDAY                      OCTOBER 27, 1974  
YOUTH SUNDAY

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
PAULA STEPHENSON, BRIAN KENNEDY - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "AUTUMN" CHAMINADE  
"HE THAT BELIEVETH" FRICK

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 43 "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WHO HAST SET US IN COMMUNITIES, AND BOUND US TOGETHER BY COMMON DUTIES AND SYMPATHIES, WE LIFT OUR HEARTS TO THEE AND PRAY WITH ONE ACCORD THAT THOU WOULDST SEND THY BLESSING UPON OUR CITY AND NATION, PROSPERING EVERY HONEST MAN, SWEEPING AWAY EVERY TEMPTATION TO EVIL, DELIVERING THE WEAK OF OUR PEOPLE FROM INTemperance AND VICE OF EVERY KIND, FEEDING MEN'S HANDS WITH LABOUR AND THEIR MOUTHS WITH BREAD, AND SPREADING THROUGH EVERY HOME THY LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE, THAT WE MAY PRAISE THEE EVERMORE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ROMANS 5: 1-11

HYMN No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (STATEMENT OF FAITH)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "CHORALE" BLAKE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ANTHEM: "THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS" SCHOLTES

HOWARD BOLAM - GUITAR; ROLAND THOMPSON, SAXAPHONE.

SERMON: "WHY REFORM?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 281 "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO RISELUTO" WILSON

----- \* CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. LLOYD FRENCH IN MEMORY OF HIS "WIFE" - GERTRUDE FRENCH.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*RAYMOND COVERT, ROBBIE VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE AND STEVE SMITH. DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES PENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 217.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN,

MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG AND LIZ ARMSTRONG.

\*HOSPITALIZED: MRS. ELIZABETH CLARK, MR. MIKE NAZARUK,

BOHM; MRS. VONNIE PAYNE - JAMISON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,

NEW CASTLE, PA.; MR. EVERETT McCANDLESS - WEST PENN.

HOSP. PITTS.

TODAY - 3:00 P.M. SPECIAL SERVICE FOR SHUT-INS

AND COMMUNION - ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND MAY DO SO.

\*WE WELCOME INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP TODAY:

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH:

MR. & MRS. JOHN STEVENSON, 429 MILLER ST.

MRS. ROSE McFEATERS, 435 NEW CASTLE ST.

BY LETTER OF TRANSFER:

MR. ROBERT WEISENSTEIN, 120 CORNELL DRIVE

\*WORLD COMMUNITY DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON FRIDAY, NOV.

1, AT THE GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AT 7:30 P.M. THE

SUBJECT, "THEY HAVE A DREAM", WILL BE DEVELOPED BY

MRS. OAKLEY WEAVER. THE PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE

WOMEN'S COMMISSION OF THE GREATER BUTLER AREA COUNCIL

OF CHURCHES.

\*WE WELCOME THOSE VISITING WITH US TODAY, AND ASK THAT

YOU SIGN THE GUEST REGISTER TO THE LEFT OF THE NAVE.

STOLE STUDY SEE MARIA KNAUER

YOUTH CHURCH PRACTICE NOV. 3, 6:00 DEPART Y.F.



This caps form what set stage 4 Luth.

2

Luth Dad want him be lawyer.

Luth start out this direction

2 events change this,

1. good friend die short after grad Erfurt Univ  
this shook yg Luth

2. Walk forest thunder storm, narrowly escape  
deth, on knees pray St. Ann, "Help me dear St.  
Anne, I will become a monk.

Thus enter Augustinian monastery Erfurt

Luth in turmoil all monastic life

search peace soul/concern no do enuf B in Gr. of G

He say, "If a monk could have gone heaven by his ob-  
servance of monastic vows, I would have been the 1."

Prayed earnest/went mass, confused all means B devout  
yet thru all this he no certain love G & 4give sins  
He ordained priesthood & celebrate 1st mass time  
anxiety 4 him.

His sense unworthy & fear commit griev sin by  
make mistake gripped him.

Perhaps Cath doc elements did this.

At pt in consec wine/blood & bread/flesh

This frighten Luth handle flesh/blood/Jesus

Become prof travel Rome.

fell ground "Hail holy Rome."

looked admir St. Peters, & looked spiritual bless

Said later wished parent dad, could pray out purg

Son Paul told Luth climb Pilate Stairway on knees

& wile do this words Paul ring in ears, "The just

shall live by faith."

(This what start him on ref.

Also how priests act Rome convince him ch. need ref.

hurried thru mass/made joke of it

Latin lang & consec, bred thou art/bred shall rema

Still came home devout son of church.

Little by little became alarmed conditions of ch.

Saw peasants bilked of money, went bild St. Peters

Indulgences/pay 4 4giveness sins/even future Basil

Tr. Merits/sts, Js Xp stored/peasants bot

Coun Worms/ promised safe conduct pass

friends kidnapped B4 coun could nab.

while at Coun make famous remark, "I cannot do

otherwise. Here I stand. God help me."

this story M. Luth,

But is story finished? I think not.

#### "Why Reform?"

Text: Romans 5:1,

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Js Xp."  
Scripture Romans 5:1-11

4 1st few yrs Ref. Sun. played down

partic story of M. Luther & how came about  
reason; Ecumenical Movement."

not in best interests 2 play up ref,  
Rom Cath involved & no want offend.

We Prots at times looked down nose at Rom Cath  
we think Luther 1 us, not them  
but Luth no want break with church, just ref.

Ref start Wittenburg Germ 1517, at least we think  
but actually start long 4 that in 910  
many devout men want cleanse ch. within,  
Luth got started big way, thus he get credit.

Ref start monastery Cluny, West Fr.  
purpose ref, make clergy/monks more pious/moral,  
& more concerned relig things life, instead/secular  
movement spread til engulf all clergy by 1st  
half 11th c.

Around 1044 Papacy had B ref.

3 Popes each 1 claim real 1

this split church.

Germ Emp. Henry III settle, choose 1

Then Span. Inq. & own brand ref.

What start means separate believer/unbeliever,  
turn in2 means torture peop extract conf. heresy

J. Wyclif Eng. bib scholar this time/ref. also

He oppose wealth ch/interfere clergy political li

In partic oppose interfere Pope

He translate Bib Latin/Eng 1382 - 1384

Students Bohemia study Oxford while he teach

they return native land spread doc. beliefs Wyclif

Jn Huss become follow Wyclif by agree theo works

this put him disfavor with ch.

he summoned Coun. Constance answer charge &  
promised safe conduct pass.

Counc listen charges & note Wyclif influence

Wyclif found guilty heresy & long ded body ordered

drag up and burned at stake.

This done, & Jn Huss found guilty/condem/burned

So Huss exec. & ch. thru nother agitator

4 I Believe prot ch verge ref diff sort  
Ecumen move was strong & all denom press 2 it  
Was called COCU  
slowly/surely many denom stop think  
Our UCC in 4front & push again  
I see grave danger in it.  
Danger lies hierarchy setup N.Y. & assume ident of  
changingness  
I Believe very sincerely each denom need ref self  
I would like see happen UCC  
UCC Bcome <sup>PERSON OF THE</sup> Social Gospel ~~orientated~~ **EMPHASIS**  
If minister protest quest ask, "Why Reform?"  
Are we not doing bidding Xp, we feed/clothe/free  
from prison/amnesty so forth.  
Why Ref. when we on rt track?  
But are we?  
I realize must take car phys needs,  
but 1st 4most, must start hart & soul of indiv,  
& when they ref automat look out bros.  
Js not instruct follows go & feed world,  
Insted, "Go and make disciples all nations"  
He tell follows make more follows Js Xp  
A follow Js Xp accepts Him by faith & good works  
naturally follow  
This message Luth had given him that start ref  
I sure fellow clergy say, "Why ref Martin?"  
Let's keep things as is, /a good thing do not spoil/  
keep peasants ignor & work for salv/& there is  
then plenty for all of us.  
But Luth not content have hierarchy off somewhere  
taking from peasants & keep they ignor of salv.  
Luth determ he chosen vessel of his time 2 show  
peas salv free for taking & only faith 2 receive it  
(Illustration: Faith, vision of)  
This must been vision Luth had,  
That throne Rome, kingdoms run by clergy toppled  
& Js reign supreme all lives thruout world.  
This vision U & I need present world.  
We need B ref own rt.  
Refs nation/state/city/neighborhood/selves  
& 2 quest. "Why Ref?" many might ask,  
answer always must B,  
"Because Js Xp demand this of me, & I must B bring  
others 2 Him, if I really love Him."  
May G give each hart ~~ref~~ & mind of ref. **REFORMER**

THE

THE



### "Why Reform?"

Text: Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

For the past few years, Reformation Sunday has been played down, and in particular, the story of Martin Luther and how it all came about. The reason being, that the church throughout the world has been involved in what has been called "The Ecumenical Movement," and it was not in the best interests of this movement to play up the Reformation, since the Roman Catholic church has been involved in this movement along with all of the Protestant bodies.

A part of this thinking has been due to the fact that we of the Protestants have had a tendency to look down our noses at our Roman Catholic brethren. We claim Martin Luther as one of us and not one of them. But the truth of the matter has always been that Martin Luther never had any intention of leaving the Roman Catholic church, and only did so reluctantly when he could do nothing else.

The Reformation as we know it was started in Wittenburg Germany in the year 1517 when Martin Luther posted his ninety five theses on the door of the cathedral there. But actually the Reformation did not start in 1517, but had its start in the year 910. Before Luther ever came upon the scene there were many devout men who tried to reform the church from within, but because Luther was able to get it started in such a big way, he received all the credit for it.

The Reformation started in the Monastery at Cluny in Western France, The purpose of the reform was to make the clergy and the monks more pious, more moral, and more concerned with the religious things of life instead of the secular things of the world. The movement spread until it engulfed all of the clergy by the first half of the 11th century.

Then around 1044 the Papacy itself had to be reformed for at this time there were three Popes, each one claiming to be the real one. This really split the church asunder. Finally the issue was settled by the German

Emperor Henry III., by his selection of one over the others. It was after this that the Spanish Inquisition came along with its own brand of reform. What started out to be a means of separating the believers from the unbelievers turned into a means of torturing people to extract confessions of heresy from them. John Wycliff of England not only was a great biblical scholar at this time, but he was also a reformer. He opposed the wealth of the church and the interference of the clergy in political life. In particular he opposed the interference of the Pope. He translated the Bible from the Latin into English between 1382 and 1384. Some students from Bohemia studied at Oxford when Wycliff lectured there. They returned to their native land and spread the doctrines and writings of Wycliff. John Huss became a follower of Wycliff by his agreement with the theological works of Wycliff. This put him in disfavor with the church and he was summoned by the Council of Constance to answer their charges under the safety of a safe conduct pass.

The Council listened to the charges against him, and in particular noted the influence of Wycliff in his life. ~~The ruled that the long dead body of~~ They found John Wycliff guilty of heresy and ordered that his long dead body be dug up and burned at the stake. So the bones of Wycliff were dug up and burned as ordered by the Council. They found John Huss guilty of heresy as well and condemned him to be burned at the stake as well. So Huss was executed and the church had removed another agitator from its midst. This in capsule form is what set the stage for Martin Luther to come upon the scene.

If the father of Luther had had his way, there would have been no reformation at least as we know it today, for he wanted his son to be a lawyer. Luther, in deference to his father started out in this direction, but two events led to his changing his course and studying to be ~~an~~ a priest. The first event was that one of his very closest friends died shortly after Luther's graduation from Erfurt University. This shook the young Luther very visibly. The second event took place as he was walking through a forest between Erfurt and Eisleben. While in this forest a severe thunderstorm arose and Luther became terrified by the crashing lightning all around him. He



narrowly escaped death, and fell to his knees and prayed to one of the patron saints of his childhood. He cried out, "Help me, dear St. Anne, I will become a monk." And it was with this assertion that he entered the Augustinian cloister at Erfurt.

But Luther was in a turmoil all of his monastic life. He was searching for peace of soul and was concerned that he could not do enough to be in the Grace of God. He himself once remarked, "If a monk could have gone to heaven by his observance of monastic vows, I would have been the one." He prayed earnestly and went to mass and confession and used all of the means of being devout, yet through all of this he could not be certain of the love of God and the forgiveness of his sins. He was ordained to the priesthood and the celebration of his first mass was a time of great anxiety for him. His sense of unworthiness and a fear of committing a grievous sin by making even the smallest mistake gripped him.

Perhaps the Catholic doctrine of the elements had something to do with this. At a point in the consecration of the elements they believe that the wine becomes the blood of Christ, and the bread becomes His flesh. This is what frightened Luther, that at the handling of Christ's body and blood he might make a mistake in handling this Holy of Holies.

It was after he became a professor that he had the opportunity to travel to Rome. When he arrived he fell to the ground and exclaimed, "Hail, Holy Rome." He looked with admiration upon St. Peter's, and he looked for the spiritual blessing he felt he would receive there. He said later that while there he wished his parents were dead, because he felt certain that he could have prayed them out of purgatory, with his prayers while there.

Paul  
His son told the story how ~~Luther~~ his father is supposed to have climbed the stone stairs known as "Pilates Stairway" upon his knees. And while doing this the words from Paul's letter to the Romans rang in his ears, "The just shall live by faith." This is what started him upon the Reformation. But it was also how the priests acted in Rome that convinced him the church needed reformed. During mass they hurried through it, and they made a joke of the

consecration of the elements. The mass was entirely in Latin, and most of the people did not know Latin, and so the priests chanted the words, "Bread you are and bread you shall remain," instead of the proper words for this part of the mass.

But still Luther returned home a devout son of the church. But little by little he became alarmed at the conditions of the church. He saw the poor peasants of his parish being bilked of their money in the sale of indulgences. The money thus derived went to build St. Peter's basilica. The indulgences consisted of a piece of paper paid for by the individual peasant, which gave them the forgiveness of a certain sin. They could even buy forgiveness of a sin they would commit in the future. For instance, if they felt they might steal a loaf of bread in a day or so, they could buy an indulgence and this forgave them for that future sin.

But worse yet, was the treasury of merit. This was a sort of bank in which the unused merits of Jesus and the saints were stored. It worked like this: Jesus and the saints lived such exemplary lives, that they were unable to use all of the goodness in their lives. Thus these leftover merits of Jesus and the saints could be sold to a person, thus giving him some needed merits for his life. For a small sum they could purchase some merits to last them for a certain length of time. Then when he could afford more, he went and bought more. So you see, this is what Luther lashed out against.

But as I said before, Luther did not wish to break with the church, but merely to reform it. But due to the stubbornness of Pope Leo X. the situation got out of hand and Luther was forced to make the break.

Luther was promised a safe conduct pass to a Council to be held at Worms, but due to the quick thinking of some of his friends his life was spared, as they kidnapped him before the Council could seize him and execute him. It was while at the Council that Luther made his classic remark when he was asked to recant all that he had said and done. He stood before them and boldly stated, "I cannot do otherwise. Here I stand. God help me." This then is the story of Martin Luther. But is this story finished? I think not.



For I believe the Protestant church is standing on the verge of a Reformation, but of a different sort. I mentioned before ~~about~~ the so called "Ecumenical Movement" which is going on in the church at large. At one point there was a very strong tendency for all of the denominations to press for this gigantic merger which was called, "The Consultation On Church Union." But slowly ~~in~~ and surely, many of the denominations have slowed down to a crawl. Our United Church of Christ has come to the forefront again and is pushing very strongly for this merger. But I see a very grave danger in it.

The danger lies in the fact that a hierarchy will be set up in New York and we will all assume one identity and it will be an identity of nothingness. I believe very sincerely that each denomination needs to Reform itself, and I for one would like to see this happen in our own UCC. I say this because we have become a denomination of "Social workers." But when a ~~fall~~ minister protests this, the question is raised "Why Reform?" Are we not doing the bidding of Christ when we feed, and clothe people, and when we free them from prison and resist the death penalty, and seek amnesty for draft evaders and deserters?" "Why reform ~~in~~ all of this, because we are on the right track?"

But are we? I realize that we must take care of the physical needs of people everywhere. But of first and utmost importance is to start with the heart and soul of the individual and when we have reformed this part of them, then they will automatically look out for the needs of their brothers. Jesus did not instruct his followers to go out and feed the world. Instead He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." He was telling them to make the people followers of Jesus Christ. And a follower of Jesus Christ accepts Him by faith, and then good works follow. This was the message that was imparted to Martin Luther that started the Reformation. I am sure his fellow clergy said to him on different occasions, "Why Reform, Martin? Let things as they are. We have a good thing going don't spoil it. Let's keep these peasants ignorant, and working for their salvation, and that way there is plenty in it for all of us." But we know that Luther was not content to have a hierarchy off somewhere

bilking the peasants and keeping them ignorant as to what salvation really was. Luther was determined that he had been the chosen vessel of his time to show the peasants that salvation was free for the taking, and only faith was involved to receive it.

Someone once penned the lines, (Faith, vision of)  
This is the vision that Luther had, that thrones of Rome, and kingdoms run by the priests would be toppled and Jesus Christ would reign supreme in all lives, throughout all of the world.

This is the vision that you and I need in our present day world. We need to be reformers in our own right. Reformers of our nation, of our state, of our city, of our neighborhood, and of ourselves. And to the question, "Why Reform?", that many would ask us, the answer always must be, "Because Jesus Christ demands it of me, and I must be bringing others to Him if I really love Him." May God give us the heart and mind of the reformer.



TRINITY CHURCH  
NEW BLOOMFIELD, PA.

CHRIST CHURCH  
DUNCANNON, PA.

TRINITY CHARGE

*The United Church of Christ*

REV. RALPH C. LINK, Pastor  
119 West Main Street  
NEW BLOOMFIELD, PA. 17068

Phone: 582-4798

"A Personal Church!"

Text: Matt. 16:18,  
"And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon  
this rock I will build my church, and the gates of  
hell shall not prevail against it."

Scripture: Matt 16:13-20

In scrip 2day we read Js inquir His discs bout self  
He ask 2 find out who peop say He is  
this famil stryxxx I sure most herd B4

Pet outspok disc always quik answer once again not  
fail master, blurt out, "Thou art the Christ, the  
son of the Living God."

Surprisly had rt answer & Js tells so,  
I say surprisly cause when look other incidents,  
Pet put foot in mouth many time

In next chap Pet in Transfig/3 booths/Mos, Elij, Js  
Same Pet want walk water/did & lost faith  
" " told Js He not B killed/ridicul/suffer,  
" " told by Js, "Get behind me Satan."  
" " cut off ear servant Hi Pr. Geth.  
" " promise never deny Js./told would/he deny3  
" " ~~xxxxxxx~~ come sep look 4 Js

Mark acct Resur say, "But go your way, tell his  
disciples and Peter, that He goeth B4 U into Galilee  
this signif Pet single out Xp ch bilt

From remain hist Pet we know he Boome rock ~~xxxxxxx~~  
This wish/wash/impet/quest/seemingly unstable  
fisher Bcame what Js predicted

But if we remem all scrip Js associates unlikely  
characts, cannot help think Js must seen in Pet  
qualities that only needed polish/aging, that life  
& experience give.

Js took as was even when Pet no Blieve in self  
" molded/shaped by constant instruct when necess  
" scolded/refroved when needed & used all deft  
ways to slowly/surely change & alter charac

Which prove Js knew human charac better anyone  
thus from common/ordinary/unschooled/uncouth man  
been found inst which withstood storms time/history  
This only poss cause inst founded on weak man,  
empowered by Js Xp Himself.

I & I members this wonder body know Xp's church  
In recent conver little old lady, (no one here)  
she start say My church but change Our Church

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

FORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 27, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST

ORDER OF WORSHIP 3:00 P.M.

PRELUDE  
HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME WE MEET"  
ASCRPTION  
INVOCATION  
SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 16: 13-20 *KING JAMES*  
ANTHEM  
SERMON: "A PERSONAL CHURCH!"  
GLORIA PATRI  
AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)  
COMMUNION HYMN 204 "BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE"  
CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32  
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER - INSTITUTION - AGNUS DEI  
THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL  
ALL ARE SERVED)  
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
HYMN OF DEDICATION 158 "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS  
CROSS"  
BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN  
POSTLUDE

THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO REMAIN SEATED FOR THE  
ENTIRE SERVICE. ONLY THE PASTOR AND THE CHOIR  
MEMBERS WILL RISE.

WE WELCOME EACH OF YOU TO THIS SPECIAL SERVICE TODAY.  
OUR DESIRE HAS BEEN TO MAKE IT A MEANINGFUL SERVICE  
FOR YOU. OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO  
TRULY WORSHIP GOD, AND THAT HIS BLESSING MAY GO WITH  
YOU.

*SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU. PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.  
TAPES THIS A.M. SERVICE IN OFFICE WILL  
GIVE TO THOSE SHARE WITH.*



But he also left us something very meaningful  
in life believer

He left mem His Body & Blood.

The Sacra Lord's Supp in other words

It in this Sacra we each come 2 Him anew,  
& once again ask Him 4 forgiveness our sins

It so fitting this day which ch took on new mean  
we can assem like this & observe the Sacra with  
those of U who mostly cannot reg partic in service  
each week.

So let us now come His table & partake His Supper.

Perhaps if we talked to Js as Rev. Horatius Bonar  
did in faml Communion hymn, we could really come  
to feel & know His presence as we sit at His table.

Mr. Bonar spoke:

This is the hour of banquet and of song;

This is the heavenly table spread for me:

Here let me feast and feasting still prolong

The brief bright hour of fellowship with thee.

Let us pray.

perhaps feel wrong say this

Word Church in Catechism "A body of believers in  
Christ, an assembly of peop. cong, society."

( say, "where 2 or 3 gathered in My name, there am  
I in the midst of them."

2 B gathered 2gether His name, means assem His purpo  
while He ordained.

Christ ordained church

there4 it organ thru which His truths proclaimed

It bear witness His life/teach/ministry/deth/  
resur/& to His sacrif for all mankind

The ch. must ever proclaim Js as Lord & Sav,

& must always ~~witness~~ bear witness to Xp,  
& bring others 2 worship with corporate body believe

Is signif note Js seldom use word MY

But when did, it My Father, My Friend, My church.

His true possess Father, friends, & church

It not wrong say My Church as long as never Bcome  
possessive & consider it Blong 2 us

We can use word MY when truly accept Xp as Sav,

& join in fellowship of ch.

Then it MY Church, & really Blong 2 us

Because we part of it

U peop had lot 2 do with furthering this ch.

Perhaps we shud say congreg

Thru U efforts we now position 2 lead/have house  
worship G.

Thus we can call St. Paul's My Church

There4 fitt on Ref Sun we pay trib 2 all who labored  
ma this ch, ch of Js Xp.

Were it not 4 those who valian plann/labored, we  
ccould not worsh this after

But in pay trib 2 any1 B it indiv or group,  
there alway danger 4geting real purpose served by  
a group or indiv.

This instance we shud much moreso pay trib Js Xp  
as founder ch, as well each indiv cong

M. Luth may B respons Ref, & our 4fathers may found  
St. P. in Butler, & many U as well as fams may have  
toiled & labored this vineyard,

But it is 2 Js Xp that we must give comp honor 4

The Church at large which we can call My Ch,

Personal Church.

He lived/suffered/died that we who followers Him  
might have fellowship we can carry on

## My Church

Text: Matthew 16:18 So now I say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build My Church

This morning I would like to direct our thinking to a subject we perhaps do not think too much about. This is the Church. Now I know that we think about it, but mostly we think of it in the terms of our individual congregation. Or we think of it in terms of our denomination. But we should think of the Church as the entire Church throughout the world. When Jesus spoke to Peter and told him that he would be the rock upon which He built His Church, Jesus was speaking of the Church of the world. He was thinking in terms of the people everywhere. But the Church throughout the world possesses the same problems as we face, and the Church of the world has many of the difficulties that we have. So perhaps in order to simplify matters we can think of our own Church here in <sup>Eminton</sup> Lamartine this morning as we concern ourselves with this subject. Any organization must possess three things in order to be active. It must have a strong foundation. It must have a strong body. And it must grow.

Jesus knew when He spoke to Peter that He had but a short time to spend on earth. He also knew that if the works He established were to be carried on and continued, they would have to be continued by His followers. Now of His main followers, namely His disciples, He must choose one to be the leader. He chose Peter. Who was this man that Jesus referred to as a rock? Here was a man were he living today who would be voted as the man most unlikely to succeed. He was the most unstable and shifting of the disciples. He was as far from possessing rock-like qualities as any man could be. Jesus must have known this. Surely Peter had no inkling that He was unqualified to be a leader. A man must certainly be blind if he does not know his strong points and his weaknesses. Peter was what is known as a quitter. A man who could not stand the strain of disapproval or suspicion. He possessed very few qualities to be a leader. He was impetuous, he was quick to lose his temper and become angry. He was uncouth and at the ~~very~~ <sup>WE CAN SAY OF HIM</sup> best a poor fisherman. Now why did Jesus select such a man when He had better candidates to choose from? Because He must have seen in Peter the rock hard character of a man not



easily defeated. A man who made up his mind about something and stuck it out to the bitter end. Peter may not have had all the qualities of leadership, but those he had were to stand him in good stead to meet the obstacles that were to face him. Jesus must have realized this. He took him as he was, He believed in him when he did not even believe in himself, and He converted him into the rock He knew Peter must be. He took this common ordinary individual to build His Church. Which proves how Christ must have felt about average human nature. He could have chosen someone more dignified, someone more educated, someone more intelligent. But He selected a common ordinary man. And if we look back into Church history we see time and time again how common average men have stepped forward to leadership in the furthering of the Church of Jesus Christ. All of the kingdoms and the empires of the world have failed. Why? Because they have been founded by strong men and upon strong men. But the Christian Church has not failed, because it has been founded upon a weak man whose strength was in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In one of His parables Jesus spoke of the house being built upon sand and how it crumbled and fell. But the one built upon rock withstood storm and tempest and held firm. Thus He knew it to be with His Church. It must be built on rock, unshakeable and unfailing. Peter became this rock. But Jesus is the corner stone upon which the Church is built. One of our familiar hymns sings of the Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord. Christ is the head of the Church. It is through Him that the Church moves. We, being a part of the Church are but the instruments through which Christ works. We must channel our hearts and our minds so that Christ may use us as He wills. That His message may be spoken by us to others. This is part of our commission in the fellowship of believers. We are a small part of the foundation. But regardless how small a part we play, we must be strong. Is our faith immovable, unshakeable and unchangeable? We should each one be solid as a rock. We of this Church of Jesus Christ should be as the stone of the building, held together by the common mortar of the love of Jesus Christ, And standing tall and erect in the sunshine of faith as an example of His Divine architecture.

Most of us at one time or another have probably stood upon the shore of a lake or at the seashore and watched the waves roll in. They start from

as far out as we can see. Gradually they gain momentum until they beat with a thundering, pounding force upon the shore. We are told that this continual pounding upon the sand, can over a period of time form this sand back into rock. This is called sandstone. However as a stone it cannot be used for much because it is too soft and crumbly. Is not this the way many Christians are formed in life? They are buffeted and beaten by the tempests of life and slowly they become hardened to these knocks and they accept them as a part of life. Then there are others who are also buffeted by the storms of life and they turn away from life and even from God. Which type are we? Are we the sandstone variety or are we the rock hard granite individuals? The Church cannot afford to have a body of wishy, washy individuals. It must be strong. The Church today as well as for the last 1900 years is surrounded by strong foes. It has survived many attacks upon it. And it can only continue to survive as long as its members are stronger than the opposition. We can only gain this strength through Christ.

The word Church is defined in the catechism, as, "A body of believers in Christ." It is also referred to as an assembly of people, a congregation or a society. Christ said where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. To be gathered together in His name means for some purpose which He has ordained. Christ ordained the Church. Therefore it is the organ through which the great truths He preached are declared. It bears witness to His life, His message, His resurrection and His truth. Like all other organizations or societies it must have its functions and services. But its functions and services must not overshadow its main purpose. It must always bear witness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and bring people together to worship and praise God. Many times a certain Church is identified with a certain individual. My home Church in Pittsburgh was always known as Weitershausen Church because this man was instrumental in the building of it. But the Church did not belong to him. Neither does this church belong to any one individual in it. It is Christ's Church. First last and always it is Christ's Church. We may donate windows or pews or books or what have you, but again they are not ours. They become a part of Christ's Church. I think it is significant to note that Jesus rarely used the word



my. He never said, my land, my clothes, my world or my possessions. The few times He did use the word He said, "My Father, my friend, My disciples, My Church." When we think about it we begin to realize that His true possessions were, His Father and His Church. Many times you and I refer to the Church as my church. We may use the term my church when we truly become a part of the fellowship of believers. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour and join in the fellowship of His Church; then we can say My Church and it really does belong to us, because we are a part of it.

Many of us have plants and flowers in our homes. We take these plants and we keep the dirt loosened around them and we water them, and in some instances we feed them some sort of vitamins. We give them doses of pesticide to keep the mites and bacteria away and we fuss and we fret over them nurturing them along to make them grow and keep growing. Yet we do not have anything to do actually with the organics that makes them grow, but by our efforts we keep them from dying and drying up. This is how it is with the Church. It must grow. The story is told of the negro minister who spoke to his congregation about the growth of his church. He said, "Our church is just getting started and it's like a baby it is crawling." Someone in the congregation shouted, "Let it crawl Rev." Then he said, "the church must grow so that it can walk." Someone said, "Let it walk Rev." Then he said in order to continue growing, "It must stretch out it's arms and legs and run." Someone said, "Let it run Rev, let it run." Then he said, "In order for it to first crawl and then walk and then run, it needs lots of money." And someone said, "Let it crawl Rev." But you see down through the years men and women have not been content to let it crawl. They have given their time and their talents, and yes, even their very lives to keep the church alive and growing. The spark that was kindled long ago has grown until it is a huge flame. Yet if we look at the church today we see that the flame is growing a little dimmer each year. A goodly portion of the world has still living in unbelief. Many millions in our country are unchurched. Is this a sign of growth? What is the cause of this stunted growth? Are the church leaders at fault? Perhaps. But if we were to check I think we would find that the church is equipped with as many good leaders as it has ever had. In fact there may be more. The fault lies with the individual

## THE LAYMEN

5.

The individual men and women of the church. I can proudly say that were it not for the love and devotion of the laymen of our two churches <sup>HERE</sup> these doors would have closed long ago. I think many other churches could look at the record and take heart at what has been done here. This is the story that will be told to this group of individuals at the meeting this coming week. Perhaps this <sup>ISA</sup> story that they have never heard before. But yet there is room for improvement. Sometimes we neglect to use an opportunity to tell others of our Church for one reason or another. Perhaps we do not tell our friends because we do not want to offend them. We maybe do not mention it at work because our fellow employees may not think of us as being part of the crowd. We keep it to ourselves as though it was a secret between us and God. Yet if we look at the early church we see that it was composed completely of laymen. It was ruled and governed completely by laymen, much as our own church is governed. But they were all willing workers for Christ. They all tried to make the Church grow. This is our task. This what we should be doing. Anything less on our part is not to be about the work of the church and the saviour we have accepted. A verse of one of our more familiar hymns sings, "I love thy church o God, Her walls before Thee stand, Dear as the apple of Thine eye and graven on Thy hand." If we truly love the church we should be doing all that we can to see it moving forward and onward. Remember the account in the Gospel of John where Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. And after each reply He tells him, "Feed My sheep." Jesus is still telling us that today. We must feed His sheep. And the only way we can feed them is to give them the spiritual food that they need. And the only way we can get them to have a steady diet of spiritual food is to bring them to church. This is our commission from Jesus. To spread His gospel. Let us be about our task and let us do it well. Let us pray.



Sermon for Shut-in service October 27, 1974

"A Personal Church!"

Text: Matt. 16:18, "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Scripture Matt. 16:13-20

In our scripture for today we read of Jesus inquiring of His disciples about Himself. He is asking to find out just who people <sup>ARE SAYING</sup> ~~say~~ He is. This is a very familiar story and I am sure most of you have heard it many times before. Peter, the outspoken disciple who was always so quick with the answers, once again does not fail his master, but blurts out, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Surprisingly he had the right answer and Jesus tells him so. I say surprisingly <sup>for several reasons. First</sup> because when we look at some of the other incidents in the life of Peter we see that he was always putting his foot <sup>later:</sup> in his mouth. In the very next chapter ~~xx~~ of Matthew we read of Peter being taken to the top of the mountain along with two of the other disciples and how Peter suggested to Jesus when He was transfigured before them, how they could make three booths there, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. This was the same Peter who saw his Lord walking on the water and in faith asked that he too might walk upon the water. But when he was out of the boat and realized what he was doing, he became frightened and began to sink because of his loss of faith. This is the same Peter who found fault with the fact that Jesus said He was going up to Jerusalem and was going to be killed. And Jesus answered him by saying, "Get thee behind me Satan."

This is the same Peter who stepped forth in the Garden of Gethsemane and cut off the right ear of the High Priest's servant. This is the same Peter who very quickly stated that he would never turn his back on his Lord, and Jesus prophesied that Peter would deny Him that very night. This is the same Peter who followed at a distance as they took Jesus before the High Priest for questioning. And this is the same Peter who sat warming his hands before the fire in the courtyard of the High Priest, and who vehemently denied that he ever knew this Jesus of Nazareth.

And this is the same Peter who came to the sepulchre seeking his Lord, after he had been told that the body was not there. There is an interesting note to be found in the Mark account of the resurrection that is a bit different from the other accounts. In Mark the angel of the Lord is talking to the women who had come to the tomb and he tells them, "But go your way, tell his disciples, and Peter, that He goeth before you into Gallilee;" I think this is significant because Peter is singled out as one to whom this message should be told. From the remaining history and life of Peter we know that he did indeed become the rock upon which Christ's church was built. This wishy-washy, impetuous, questioning, seemingly unstable fisherman became the rock that Jesus predicted he would be.

If we look at Peter from another angle we would question why Jesus would even consider him as a candidate to be the foundation of Christ's church. Of all the disciples Peter always stands out as the nonconformist. He would be voted, at least by all the standards we know, as the man most unlikely to succeed. He was far from possessing the rocklike qualities that would be needed as the base of the church.

But if we remember all of the other portions of scripture in which Jesus associates with unlikely characters, we cannot help but think that He must have seen in this man Peter, qualities of leadership that just needed a bit of polishing and aging that only time and life can give. He took him as he was. He believed in him when Peter did not even believe in himself. He molded him and shaped him by his constant instruction when necessary, by his scolding and reproof when needed, and by all of the other deft ways and means He employed to slowly, but surely change and alter his character. Which once again goes to prove that Jesus knew how to judge human character much better than anyone ever gave Him credit for doing.

Thus from this common ordinary, unschooled, uncouth man has been founded an institution <sup>WHICH</sup> ~~that~~ has withstood the storms of time and history. This has only been possible because this institution founded upon a weak man, has been empowered by the strength of none other than Jesus Christ Himself.



You and I are members of this wonderful body known as Christ's Church. In recent conversation with a dear little old lady, (none of you here). We were talking about this church and she started to refer to it as "My Church," but stopped herself and said, "Our Church." Perhaps she felt that she should not say, "My Church," I do not know, for I did not question her about it. The word church is defined in the catechism as, "A body of believers in Christ." It is also referred to as an assembly of people, or a congregation, or a society. Christ said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." To be gathered together for His name, means to be assembled for His purpose which He has ordained. Christ ordained the church. Therefore, it is the organ through which His Truths must be proclaimed. It bears witness to His life, to His teachings, to His ministry, to His death, to His Resurrection and to the salvation which is ours through Him. The Church must ever proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour and must always bear witness to Christ, and bring people together to worship God as a corporate body of believers.

It is significant to note that Jesus very seldom used the word "my". The few times He did, it was in reference to "My Father, my friend, my church." When we think about it we realize that His true possessions were, His Father and His church. It isn't wrong to use the term my church as long as we never become possessive about it and consider it as belonging to ~~my~~ us. We can use the word "My" when we truly accept Christ as our Saviour and join in the fellowship of His church. Then we can say MY Church and it really does belong to us, because we are really then a part of it.

You people have had a lot to do with the furthering of this church. Perhaps we should say, "Congregation." Through your efforts we who now are in the position to lead, have a house in which we can worship God. Thus, you can ~~xxx~~ call St. Paul's "My Church." It ~~xxxxxxx~~ is therefore fitting that on this Reformation Sunday, we pay tribute to all who have labored to make this church, the church of Jesus Christ. Were it not for those who so valiantly planned, and labored, we could not worship here this afternoon.

But in paying tribute to anyone be it an individual or a group, there is always the danger of forgetting the real purpose served by a group or an individual. In this instance we should much moreso be paying tribute to Jesus Christ the founder of this church, as well as each individual church. Martin Luther may have been responsible for the Reformation, and our forefathers may have founded St. Paul's here in Butler, and many of you as well as your families may have toiled and labored in this vineyard; but it is to Jesus Christ that we must give the tribute and the complete honor for this church as well as for all other~~x~~. churches.

He lived, He suffered, He died, that we who are followers of Him, might have a fellowship in which we can carry on. But He also left us something that is very meaningful in the life of the believer. He left us the memorial of His body and blood. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in other words. It is in this Sacrament that we each come to Him anew, and once again ask Him for the forgiveness of our sins. It is also fitting on the day in which the church took on ~~xxx~~ new meaning that we can assemble like this and observe the Sacrament with those of you who are not regularly able to participate in the services each Sunday. So let us now come to His table and partake of His Supper. Perhaps if we talked to Jesus as the Rev. Horatius Bonar a Scottish minister once did in the familiar hymn used quite often as a Communion Hymn, we could really come to feel and know His presence as we sit at His table. Mr. Bonar spoke; "This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me: here let me feast, and feasting still prolong the brief bright hour of fellowship with thee." Let us pray.



We are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for ourselves a good foundation for the future so that we may take hold of the life which is life indeed.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 3, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST

MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR

GREG BOSKO, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD" Wooler  
"ARIEL" Doige

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 271 "O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ETERNAL GOD, IN WHOM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING, WHOSE FACE IS HIDDEN FROM US BY OUR SINS, AND WHOSE MERCY WE FORGET IN THE BLINDNESS OF OUR HEARTS; CLEANSE US, WE BESEECH THEE, FROM ALL OUR OFFENSES, AND DELIVER US FROM PROUD THOUGHTS AND VAIN DESIRES; THAT WITH LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS WE MAY DRAW NEAR TO THEE; CONFESSING OUR FAULTS, CONFIDING IN THY GRACE, AND FINDING IN THEE OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THY SON, AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 11 CORINTHIANS 9: 6-15

HYMN No. 260 "LORD, THOU LOVEST THE CHEERFUL GIVER"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "CANTANDO"

CONCONE

ANTHEM: "GOIN' HOME" DVORAK - ACCOMPANIMENT -

KITTY FEDER - PIANO; ROL THOMPSON

SERMON: "STEALERS 74!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 395 "FROM THEE ALL SKILL AND SCIENCE FLOW"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "POSTLUDE IN B FLAT" VOLEKMAR

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. CARL MILLER IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES PENAR.

ELDER AND MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 184.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON STAUFFER,

LAUREL STAUFFER, AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

> TODAY - 6:00 - YOUTH CHOIR - WE HAD AT LEAST 15 SIGN-UP.

> TODAY - 7:00 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - THE YOUTH ARE TO COME IN COSTUME.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING.

> WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

TODAY - AFTER THE MORNING WORSHIP - THERE WILL BE A

SHORT MEETING OF THE MARY MARTHA CIRCLE IN FRONT OF

THE CHURCH - IT WILL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE OR TWO.

THE PASTOR WILL BE IN NORFOLK VIRGINIA - MONDAY THRU

FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY PASTORAL

NEEDS, PLEASE CONTACT BEA TAIT, OR THE REV. GRANVILLE

COOPER.

NEXT SUNDAY IS CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT SUNDAY - THE BUDGET

WILL BE PRESENTED; THE UNDERSHEPHERDS WERE CONTACTED

AND THEY WILL HAVE A SHORT MEETING AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

NEXT SUNDAY. THOSE NOMINATED FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD

FOR ELDER ARE: ROBERT BASEHORE, GENE STEPHENSON.

FOR DEACON: PAUL PFABE,

DON KENNEDY, JOAN MASTER AND WILLIAM PFLUGH.

BILL PFLUGH WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO

HELPED BRING THE SHUT-INS TO THE SERVICE LAST SUNDAY

AFTERNOON. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE YOUTH,

WOMEN AND MEN WHO SERVED AS USHERS AT DESHON DURING

OCTOBER - WITHOUT YOU IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO BILL FOR THOSE

TWO NECESSARY PROJECTS - THANK YOU.

MR. PFABE HOSPITAL

WELCOME VISITORS

Perhaps this seem harsh when consider 1st time, 2  
But must ask, "What G, say?"

Vs ~~Malachi~~ Malachi 3  
Many peop, many denom/chs adopt attitude "let G B  
satis what is left."  
Thus own day/age "Stealers 74!"

Is. ( )t blesses many things but attitu begreudge G.  
Early Xpians & chs give G 1st, other things 2nd.  
slow/sure this change,  
our needs/wants/desires 1st, G get leftovers

vs 9, must give G 1st place or face conseq.  
Many fight hang on possess homes/prop/furn etc  
But if many look C give G 2nd place may change  
thinking

G. says, vs 10

Peop reluc step out faith in give 2 G.  
chs I serve each had peop say, "I no believe pledge"  
That same pers buy house 20/25 yrs/car 3 yrs,  
this pledge.

What really say, "I believe pledge 4 me/not 4 G"  
diff tween ch pledge other pledge/no can pay other  
pledge as C fit.

Pledge 2 ch, U give what U feel U want give  
In all bus of give 2 G it matter trust G give health  
strength

Does not all come from G?  
It matter trust G as says Mal 3:10, "He open win-  
dows hvn pour out bless."

We can never outgive G,  
unless U know I mean, U no understand

It may come U health fam,  
May B peace in marriage, obed children  
May B content in job & peop work with  
May t<sub>ake</sub> all forms, but G bless some way

(Illust. tithing & results) Letourneau  
With inflation not poss every1 give 10%  
But is poss all give cert. % money,  
as well cert. % time & effort in ch. work

There not 1 us cannot spare G some time cause 2 busy  
If so, we just that, "Too Busy."  
& need alter our lives.

Simple fact all this, we created love G  
This mean G wants all of us.  
He no want portion, or what we want give,

## "Stealers 74!"

T: Malachi 3:8-10  
"Will man rob God? But you say, 'How are we robbing  
thee?' In your tithes and offerings. You are  
cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the  
whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into  
the storehouse, that there may be food in my house;  
and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of  
hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for  
you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Scripture: II Cor. 9:6-15

Preacher once remark: "I know what peop will put on  
my tombstone --- the beggar died."  
Perhaps on many preach tombstone,  
perhaps this peop think of preachers in gen

At risk this AM further this thot in some peop minds  
I speak subj ch peop no like hear----MONEY  
I no believe speak this often, but this time yr we  
consider budget & ch needs

I realize some folk just soon preach no refer 2 it  
He not suppose think/worry bout it  
MONEY fact life whether grocer/pastor ch

1 most quote story Js/story Gosps MAR. Luk & 3,4, vs  
story widow mite <sup>1/2</sup> <sup>2/</sup>

Tells Js in syn nr treas, watch peop put mon in  
Saw many wealth put lrg sums  
widow put 2 sm coin = 1¢

Js tell disc this woman put more all rest  
She gave what little she had to Lord &  
it more accept

Given free give spirit

This story good obj lesson 4 all us  
But also respons fallacy sum peop hav ch give  
Fallacy Js condone give small gift & small gift  
more accept 2 God,

thus we can little as possib to G  
(Illust. boy & best show for 5¢)

hate burst any illus bout give,  
story by Js concern some1 only sm sum give/gave it  
Js show pers may give lg sum/give no love give  
V- 6-7 Scripture in vain

Gift of duty vs. gift love

(Illust. 89 yr old man & kiss) **ALSO BLUE PICTURE**

This gift love, this G wants from us

(Illust. Kennedy & Grand larceny)



He wants MONEY.

He wants Time,

He wants abilities

& in return 4 give this His care, He prom bless  
far beyond measure

Must ask selves quest "Will we B part of crowd of  
"Stealers 74?"

Q. will we ~~Expart~~ join ranks givers? in grat 4  
what He give us?

I would suggest we gather 2gether as hus/wife/fams  
& pray earnestly/seriously B4 make decision what  
give.

G will lead if we seek Him sincerely.

Let us not B "Stealers 74," or "stealers" any other  
yr.

Let us instead B lovers of G & show it by actions  
& deeds for Him.

Remember P. say,

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and

he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not  
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a  
cheerful giver."

"Stealers 74!"

Text: Malachi 3:8-10,

"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Scripture: II Corinthians 9:6-15

A preacher once remarked to a friend of his, "I know what people will put on my tombstone ---- The beggar died." Perhaps this may be on many preachers' tombstones, and perhaps this is the image some people have about preachers in general. Therefore this morning, at the risk of furthering this thought in some people's minds, I would like to speak to you about a subject that church people do not like to hear too much about. And that is money. I do not believe ~~much~~ in preaching about it very often, but at this time of the year when we are considering the budget and the needs of the church, I do not think it is out of line to do so. I realize of course that some folks would just as soon never have the preacher refer to it, because he is not supposed to worry or think about those things. But money is a fact of life whether you are in charge of a grocery store, or whether you are pastor of a church.

One of the most quoted stories of Jesus is probably the little story that is told in the Gospels of Mark and Luke and it ~~was~~ is made up of only 3 or 4 verses. The story is the one about the widow's mite. ~~The~~ As it is related in both Gospels it tells of Jesus sitting near the treasury in the Synagogue and watching people put their money in. We are told that he saw many of the wealthy putting in large sums, but along comes this poor widow who places in the treasury two small coins, which were the equivalent of a penny. Jesus called His disciples to Him and remarked that this <sup>poor</sup> woman had placed into the box more than all the rest. She had given what little she had to the Lord, and therefore it was more acceptable. It was also the free giving spirit in which she gave that made it worth more.



This story tells a very good object lesson for all of us, but I believe it also has been responsible for a fallacy that some people have about church giving. The fallacy is that because Jesus condoned the giving of a small gift and said this gift was more acceptable to God, then this is a just cause for giving as little as we can, because this is what our Lord said to do. (Illustration of boy & best show for a nickel)  
Well I hate to burst many illusions that some of you may have had about this, but this is not necessarily so. The illustration concerns someone who could only give a small amount and this is what she gave.

The real point of the story is not what she gave, but how she gave. What Jesus was pointing out, was that a person may give large amounts of money and give it without love, and so it is given in vain. This is what Paul was telling the Corinthians as we read in our scripture, "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion." This then is the secret, to give with love and with joy. Have you ever received a gift that was given out of a sense of duty, rather than out of love? If you have you know how cold and lifeless such a gift is. ~~By~~ By the same token if you have ever received a gift that was given strictly out of love, you know what a joy it is. This past week I received a gift from an 89 year old man that made me cry. I visited him in the hospital and read some scripture with him and prayed with him, all the while he held my hand real tight like a little child. And when I went to leave he pulled me down close to his face and kissed me on the cheek. That, was a gift given out of pure love. This is what God wants from us.

(Illustration of Kennedy and grand larceny)

When one considers this for the first time, it may seem that this is being a little harsh. But when we ask what God has to say about this, then we begin to see things in a different light. In the prophecy of Malachi the 3rd chapter the 8th verse we read the question, "Will man rob God?" Naturally, we may ask, "How can we possibly rob God?" And if we read on in the 9th verse God answers, "Yet you are robbing me." And Malachi inserts the

question the Israelites must have asked, "But you say, "How are we robbing thee?" And the answer comes back from God, "In your tithes and offerings." So we see from this that the people of Israel were holding back on giving to the Lord what was rightfully His. But when we look at our own age and our own day we see that we have "Stealers 74." Many people in many different churches and denominations have adopted this attitude that God will have to be satisfied with whatever is left over after everything else is paid.

Times change attitudes and customs do they not? The Israelites were not blessed with many things, neither were they faced with many of the expenses that we have today. But their attitude was one of begrudging the Lord what was rightfully His. The attitude among many Christians since the beginning of the Christian church has been to strive to give to God before taking care of the other things of life. But slowly and surely this attitude has changed to one of taking care of our wants, and needs and desires, and if anything is left over, God can have it.

But in this thinking we can see the danger, just as the danger was spelled out by God for the Israelites. He says in the 10th verse, "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me the whole nation of you." In this we can see that God will either be given 1st place in our lives, or He will exact a form of punishment from us. Many people fight to hang onto possessions, such as homes and property of all kinds, and many times all sorts of things go wrong. But if the people would look at their lives and realize that they are continually giving God second place, their lives may take a change for the better if they reversed their thinking. God also promises this in the very next verse of Malachi when He says, "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." God is saying try me and see what will happen.

But you see people are reluctant to step out in faith when it comes to



giving to the Lord. The churches that I have served have all had a certain number of people who will say, "I do not believe in pledging." Which is ~~true and I accept it, and feel the same way~~ erroneous, for that same person will go out and buy a home and sign a mortgage for 20 or 25 years, which is a pledge for a long period of time. Or that person will go out and buy a new car and finance it for 3 years which is also a form of a pledge. But you see these pledges are not like the pledges you give to a church. With a church pledge you can determine what you want to pledge. With a house or a car, the lending institution will tell you that you must pay 70, 80, 100, or whatever dollars a month for a 3 yr period or 20 years. And you cannot come to them and say, "Look, I'm a little short this month and I can only give you a third of it, or half of it. It is all or you lose the car or house or whatever. With a pledge to the church, no one is going to hound you if you are laid off or you have problems meeting it.

In all of this business of giving to God, it becomes a matter of doing it in faith. In faith that God is going to give you the health and the strength to be able to work and earn a living. And after all, where does our health and strength come ~~for~~ from? It is a matter of trusting God that when he says He will open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing, then we must believe that He will. We can never outgive God, and unless you have taken this step of faith, you cannot understand what I am saying. It may not come to you in material things, but it may come to you with a healthy family. It may take the form of having a peaceful marriage and obedient children. It may take the form of contentment with your job and the people you work with. And just the reverse of these things can be true if you are miserly and selfish with what God blesses you with. *& ROBBING GOD. YES DENY A STERN 74 VARIETY.*

A very good example of what I have been trying to say, was proven in the life of Mr. LeTourneau the earth moving machinery man.

(Illustration of his tithing and the results)

Mr. Letourneau also gave liberally of himself in the work of the Lord, and a portion of our tithe can be given in this way. With the cost of inflation

6 raising families and so on it sin't possible for everyone to give a straight 10% of the salary. But it is possible for everyone to give of their time, There is not a one of us who is so busy that we cannot spare God a few hours a week of our time. And if any of us think that we are too busy to fit God in our schedule, then we are just that too busy, and we need to alter our lives.

The simple fact of all of this is that we were created to love God. This means that God wants all of us. He doesnot just want a portion or what we feel we ~~can~~ want to give Him. He wants our money, He wants our time, He wants our abilities. And in return for giving all of this overvto His care and keeping, He <sup>PROMISE TO</sup> ~~will~~ bless us far beyond measure.

So we must then ask ~~in~~ ourselves the question, "Will we be a part of the join the ranks of the givers Stealers of 74?" Or will we instead, ~~be a part of the givers?~~ ~~because~~ in gratitude for what He has given us? I would respectfully suggest that we each one gather together as husbands and wives, or as families, and pray earnestly and seriously about this before we make a rash decision. God will lead us to give ~~as much as we can~~ as He wants us to if we sincerely seek His guidance and help. Let us not be "Stealers 74, or Stealers any other year. Let us instead be lovers of God and show it by our actions and our deeds for Him.



This, is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT SUNDAY November 10, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
GREG BOSKO, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE LORD IS MY LIGHT" PSALM 27  
"PRELUDE ON 'MELITA'" DYKES

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 30 "COME, WE WHO LOVE THE LORD"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 25: 14-30

HYMN No. 256 "LORD, SPEAK TO ME"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "THE PEACE OF GOD"

MARTIN

DEDICATION OF UNDER SHEPHERDS

BUDGET PRESENTATION

NOMINATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

ANTHEM: "THIS IS MY COUNTRY" JACOBS - CHOIR  
SOLO - VON MALONEY

SERMON: "WANTED: USED TALENTS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 259 "BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN GIVEN

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN MUCH"

\*ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MARCHE HEROIQUE" STICKLES

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. ROY PFLUGH IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARB VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 205.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. W. W. PFABE

THOSE NOMINATED FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD FOR ELDER ARE:

ROBERT BASEHORE, AND GENE STEPHENSON. FOR DEACON:

PAUL PFABE, DON KENNEDY, JOAN MASTER AND WILLIAM PFLUGH.

TODAY - SHORT MEETING WITH ALL THE UNDER SHEPHERDS IN THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP.

THE UNDER SHEPHERDS WILL VISIT YOU IN YOUR HOMES TODAY OR SOMETIME THIS WEEK. PLEASE MAKE THEM WELCOME.

WED. - NOV. 13 - 10:30 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE.

NEXT SATURDAY - NOV. 16 - 6:00 P.M. - THE YOUTH

FELLOWSHIP WILL HAVE A SWIMMING PARTY AT THE YMCA.

EVERYONE IS TO MEET AT THE Y. THEY WILL GO TO THE HOME

OF MR. & MRS. RAY COVERT, 127 WHITE OAK DRIVE,

MEADOWOOD. PARENTS CAN PICK UP THE YOUTH AT 9 P.M.

THURS. - NOV. 21 - BUTLER AREA LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

WILL HOLD THEIR FALL MEETING AND DINNER AT ST. PAUL'S

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AT CONNOQUENESSING AT 6:30.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ROBERT TAIT, J. W. HARMON,

AND PAUL PFABE.

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TO WALK IN THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL MEANS TO LET CHRIST POSSESS US WHOLLY. AND THOSE WHO WALK IN THIS BLAMELESS WAY ARE BLESSED.

Welcome visitors; sign cards/book

BIOGRAPHY MARY KRAVER 9:30 THURS.  
ANNIE DON EUGENE KENNEDY 10:30 THURS.  
KATHY FEDER - 17 THURS. SEND ENDS

Wouldn't choir sound horrib if all sopranos:  
Or all bass?  
Need blend bass, sop, ten, alto make beautiful  
Need ushers, alcolytes, preachs/teachs/asst teach  
workers all kinds run ch.

(Illustration fingerprints)

D U ever figure U unique?

Ask Paul Pfabe bout fingerprints

This way we are/all unique/each spec G eyes

Alway remem very few A. Lincoln/Shakespeare/Edison

Most us will B unknown/unheralded in world,

therefore, play import role G's plan

Up 2 each us determ where/how fit in G's plan

(Illust. P. Rees, and Sangster)

Most us 1 tal peop

But this no mean we ~~xxxxx~~ less import any1 else.

In orchest take all instruments make symph produce  
beautiful music.

But 1 instr out tune create havoc/disrupt all

So with us, must blend tals 2gether create harmon  
beauty can have Christ's church

(Illust. wealthy girl, consec 2 Xp.)

God calling those B follow His Son from His hvnly  
classified ads,

"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Will U apply 2day?

" " join ranks those employ G in His work?

" " add your tals, however small, feeble they  
B 2 work 4 ch of Js Xp?

Pi J about/ask G lead direct what should do.

"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Text: Matthew 25:29 "For to everyone who has will  
more be given, and he will have  
abundance."

(Ref' want-ads from newspaper.)

Thl good examp what wanted fields employ/that exper  
Exper indic pers has talents used/devel/cultiv  
makes pers desirable industry

Per w/exper more valu employ/better salary

Parable Js told scrip every Xpian take seriously

Teletns not coins but weight.

Talent silver 576, 5 tal 2880/2tal 1152/1 tal 576

Who 1 tal & useless serv?

Wm Barclay, Pharisee/Scribes

Sc/phars keep letter law

Any change from this, heresy

Have many sc/phars 2day

These peop tal from G not use/refuse use

their action simil dig hole, bury tal ground

This para tell G give diff gifts diff peop

Never how much tal man has, but what does with it

G never expec us do thing we incapa do

nor does require perform act we unequipp perform

But G does expect use abilis fullest

" " " require use talents give us

Talents for His honor, glory

(Illust. Adam Clark)

Perhap this made him great think & gave incent

use tals best could, succeeded

This para pt 1 furth thing,

that is, work well done/more work 2 do.

Js no say you work 3yrs, 1yr

He say, "Take cross, follow me."

Have U ever know peop feel only need serve G short

1 wom tell me, "worked 3yr; now some1 else turn."

If we look serv this lite, G say when stand B4 Him

"Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire

prepared for the devil and his angels."

This record later on same chap as scrip

Xpian serv & withn no easy task, I no imply this

Do not mean serv same dreary job yr after yr

Do mean serv, certain area, move another

We each given diff gifts from G

We no possess same things, this fortunate



"Wanted: Used Talents!"

Text: Matthew 25:29, "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance."

(Read wants out of newspaper.)

I think this is a good example of what is wanted in the different fields of employment and that is experience. And experience indicates that the person has talents that have been used and cultivated and have made that person desirable ~~by~~ in industry. It also goes without saying that a person who is experienced is more valuable to his employer, and thus commands a better salary.

The story of the master entrusting his property to his servants is a story that everyone who calls himself a Christian, must take very seriously. ~~It~~ ~~xxxxxxkxxxxxx~~ To begin with, the talents involved in the story were not really coins or money, but were a weight instead. A talent of silver was worth approximately \$576 dollars. The man who received five talents then, received \$2880 dollars, the man who received two talents received \$1152 dollars, and the one talent man received \$576 dollars.

An interesting thing about this story is the question, "Who was the one talented or useless servant portrayed in the story?" William Barclay says that it was the Scribes and the pharisees to whom Jesus was referring. ~~It~~ ~~this is the case when we can see~~

The Scribes and Pharisees were people who strove to keep the letter of the law exactly as it was. Any change from this, or failure to follow it in this manner was heresy to them. We have many Scribes and Pharisees ~~xxxxxx~~ among us today. These are the people who are given talents by God and do not use them, or refuse to use them. Their action is the equivalent of digging a hole and burying the talent in the ground.

This parable also tells us that God gives different gifts to different people. It is never, how much talent a man has, but what he does with it. God never expects us to do things we are incapable of doing, nor does He require us to perform any act which we are unequipped to perform. But He does expect us to use our abilities to the fullest. He does require that

we use our abilities to the fullest. He does require that our talents be used for His honor and glory.

(Illustration of Adam Clark, English theologian)

Perhaps this is what made this man the great thinker he was, or what gave him the incentive to use his abilities in the proper way. He used his talents as best he could and he succeeded.

But this parable also points out one further thing, and that is, the reward of work well done is more work to do. Jesus never said that you are to serve me for only a three year period, or for one year in my Church School. But He said "take up your cross and follow me." Have you ever known people who felt they only needed to serve God for a limited time? I had one woman in a church I served become very indignant when I suggested she continue to serve in a certain capacity. She very firmly and forcefully informed me that she had done all she was going to. She had worked in the Church School for a three year period and now it was someone else's turn to work. If we looked at our service to the Lord in this light, I dread to hear what our Lord is going to say to us when we come to the day we stand before Him and He pronounces His condemnation on us. He will say, "Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." And you will find this recorded a little later in the same chapter we have used for our scripture and text. I do not mean to imply that our Christian service and witness will be easy. It will be difficult at times, and yes, even discouraging because we will be beset with the trials and problems of life, as well as becoming confronted from the wiles of the devil. But through the strength and the power that comes from God through prayer and seeking His guidance we can overcome all of this.

But you see our service for the Lord is for a lifetime. This does not mean that we must serve in the same capacity year after dreary year. But it does mean that after we have served a term on the Church Council, that we move out and work in another area. We each are given different gifts from God. We do not all possess the same abilities, and this is indeed fortunate.



Wouldn't the choir sound horrible if they were all sopranos? Or all basses? It takes a blending of Sopranos, basses, tenors and altos to make it sound beautiful. It takes ushers, and acolytes, preachers, teachers, assistant teachers, and workers of all kinds to run a church.

But did you ever consider that each one of you are unique? Have you ever thought that in God's great plan you are something special? Ask Paul Pfabe sometime to explain fingerprints to you and you will find that no two finger prints have ever been discovered that were identically the same. Each finger print is unique and different. ~~xxxxx~~ Doesn't this say something to You? Does it not make you feel that God was really concerned when He created you? Does it not show that you are something and someone special in His eyes?

You are important in God's eyes and in His kingdom. He has something for you to do. You were so important that He gave His Son for you. What you do or do not do is important and makes a great difference in the Lord's work, and to be witness of Christ. We must always remember that very few people are Abraham Lincoln's, or Shakespeare's, or Thomas Edisons. Most of us are and always will be unknown and unheralded in the world. But it takes all of us common people to make up this world and therefore we must play an important part in the vast plan of God. Therefore, it is up to each of us to determine just where and how we can fit into God's ~~xxxxxx~~ plan.

(Illustration of Paul Rees and talents, as well as the line from Sangster sermon on talents)

Most of us are only one talent people. But this ~~xxxxx~~ does not mean that we are any less important than anyone else. In an orchestra it takes all of the different instruments to make a symphony ~~xxxxx~~ produce beautiful music. But just let one of those instruments be played ~~xxxx~~ out of tune, and it disrupts the entire concert. So it is with us, we must all blend our talents together to create the harmonious beauty that we can have in Christ's church.

~~(Illustration of xxxxxxxxx girl and xxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxx)~~

~~John~~ *John* ~~Homes~~ *Homes* wrote in his beautiful hymn, "The voice of God is calling etc."

(Illustration of wealthy girl and consecration to Christ)

God is ~~xxxx~~ calling to those who would be followers of His Son, ~~The~~  
~~From the~~  
~~Heavenly classified ads are calling out to every~~ from His  
heavenly classified ads, "Wanted: Used Talents!" Will you apply today. Will  
you join the ranks of those who are employed by God in His work? Will you  
add your talents however small or feeble they may be, to work for the Church  
of Jesus Christ? Pray about it, and ask God to lead you in ~~xxxxdirection~~  
what you should do.



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" O Come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 17, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
BILL WATTERSON AND RANDY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THEME FROM 'FINLANDIA'" SIBELIUS  
"WHEN GOD LEADS" CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL, WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASING TO THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND, WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 139

HYMN No. 315 "LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ANDANTE GRAZIOSO"

MOZART

ANTHEM: "IS THERE ANYBODY HERE?"

WILSON

SERMON: "A KNOW, KNOW!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 311 "NOW ONCE AGAIN FOR HELP"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ANTIPHON" MUFFAT

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MRS. GRACE RIDDLE FOR MR. & MRS. STEVE VARGO IN HONOR OF THEIR 7TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY (NOV. 18).

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 227.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. MARGARET COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. W. W. PFABE - BOMH. Everett McCandless

TODAY - TIME AND TALENT SHEETS ARE DUE - PLEASE RETURN THEM TO BEA IN THE OFFICE - IF YOU ARE NOT FINISHED CALLING - PLEASE DO SO THIS WEEK. THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT FOR THE YEAR BOOK.

MONDAY - 6:00 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TUREEN SUPPER - THERE WILL ALSO BE A GRAB BAG.

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE MEETING - THEY WILL BE MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS - MEMBERS WILL NEED SCISSORS.

THURS. - 6:30 - BUTLER AREA LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION FALL DINNER AND MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S UCC AT CONNOQUENESSING. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ROBERT TAIT, J. W. HARMON AND PAUL PFABE.

AN ORDER WENT IN LAST WEEK FOR THE DELUXE CLOTH BOUND LIVING BIBLE WHICH WITH A SPECIAL COUPON FROM THE CHURCH (COST WILL BE \$7.47). ANOTHER ORDER WILL BE GOING THIS WEEK - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COPY - PLEASE LEAVE BEA TAIT KNOW. THE CHILDREN'S LIVING BIBLE IS \$4.91 ALSO AVAILABLE WITH A COUPON. A COPY OF THE ADULT LIVING BIBLE IS IN THE OFFICE SHOULD YOU WANT TO SEE IT.

NEXT SUNDAY - 7:00 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

DON'T FORGET - GREENVILLE HOME NEEDS - PANTYHOSE, NYLONS, BITS OF YARN, TRIMMING, EMPTY SPOOLS.

Even B4 we anything G knew us  
 How wonder yet could we expect less from G?  
 In infin love/mercy He planned 4 us  
 He wanted us come 4th B part His creation  
 Yet how often we live like this?  
 ( ) not insted grumb/moan/quest,  
 "Why was I born? What purpose of life 4 me? How  
 can I go on?" begin  
 Our quest should cease & we ~~xxxxxx~~ instead praise  
 G 4 all works & echo words Dav 17-18  
 But Dav remems he still among peop no know G  
 He concern what hap these peop  
 he want comf & assur liv Gly life not in vain  
 & so he speak thots aloud, state what G will do  
 Vsss 19-22  
 Must remem this OT & no Xp speak harts peop OT  
 When Xp came gave new Commands, we 2 love enemies  
 He told folls do good those deppite use U  
 seek luv all men good/evil  
 But he no tell love sin  
 Told luv sinner, but not sin  
 In essence this Dav say these vss  
 He say radic disturb those against will of G  
 " cannot stand this type living & he count as  
 enemies of G. & they were  
 Dav show right. indig, which prop & just  
 Js showed this in Temp.  
 but danger right indig we judge/jury in lives peop  
 Must no do, but commend care Al.G, & He jusge  
 v. 23,24  
 Dav close Ps with prayer  
 he pray G serch hart/mind/soul  
 he ask G look inward deep see if wick then lead  
 etern life  
 not only pray comf & self-ex, but no1 pray  
 unless complete will open life eye of Al G  
 Dav seek all this Ps have G know him & know G as  
 this "A Know, Know," Ps well  
 P. I Cor. 13:12 say another way,  
 "Now I know in part, but then shall I ~~xx~~ know, even  
 as I am known."  
 2 know & B known essence of Xpianity & Xpian  
 (Illustration man/operation/testimony)  
 Here man who knew in whom place comp. trust & conf.

## "A Know, Know!"

Text: Psalm 139:23,24,  
 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and  
 know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way  
 in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."  
 Amy and Jennifer Barkley/Amy woke her up.  
 "I know." "I don't know."  
 Knowing/unknowing common all peop, not only child  
 Things no should do call no no's.  
 139 Ps, Ps of Know, Know, spell K  
 Bib schols argue author/I say David  
 Not love Ps love words/phrases  
 Ps deep thot & deep conviction  
 Not writ as mod writers make best sell.  
 Vss 1-6,  
 Dav draw conclus G omniscient/all knowing  
 He know all/see all  
 in 2day worls conflict with this,  
 man say he search 4 God  
 but little/nothing said G search 4 man  
 1 most often herd complaint peop not understood.  
 Yg peop "You no understand  
 we live/act/speak all sincerity, yet misunder  
 (Walter Eccles poem "Not Understood)  
 plea Eccles make last line echoed by Dav,  
 but assur G see-all/know-all about us, even if  
 misunderstood by men.  
 V. 7-12  
 Dav quest ever able B out site of G  
 No matter where go G there  
 even depths of hell He there/uttermost part sea  
 this comfort as well as disturbing  
 (Illustration Big-Godder)  
 This Dav, He Big-Godder  
 G everywhere/know everything about everyone.  
 No can escape Him  
 This God we must have if we really love/worsh/  
 in faith and truth.  
 Vss 13-18  
 Dave acknow G aware him when just micro-organism  
 being joined another micro-organism within body  
 mother.  
 This theory make 1 pause truly comprehend lov of  
 God.

In fact place very life

This what all should B able do

We should echo words Dav B able say as he did,

s 23,24,

"Search me O God, and know my heart; try me and  
 know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way  
 in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Know me, & whether Xp lives within me.

Test me, & see how strong my faith is.

Cleanse me from all evil & wicked & lead me ever  
 toward etern life with You.

To know Js Xp is 2 B able speak comp faith/assur

To know Saviour is 2 know Father

To know He lived/died/ 4 us, 2 know that which  
 leads way everlasting

May we each B "A Know, Know," in this life,

& may we also B "A Know, Know," in G's etern

kingdom, thru our knowing Js Xp as our Saviour.



"A Know, Know!"

Psalms 139:23,24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts;  
and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Where we lived in the central part of the ~~state~~ state, we became friends with a young widow who had two children. The ~~youngest girl was just a baby~~ youngest girl worked as a waitress for a time, and she asked Shirley if she would babysit the children. ~~and the girl held~~

The youngest was a baby and the older girl was \_\_\_\_\_ old. Amy, the older girl would go into the living room where Jennifer was sleeping on the couch and after a short time she would have Jennifer awake, because she pushed and pulled at her. Naturally, Amy would be crying and it was difficult to get her to go back to sleep. We would say to Amy, "Don't you know that ~~xxx~~ you should let Jennifer sleep Amy?" And she would answer, "I Know!" And then we would ask, "Well, why don't you let her sleep?" And she would answer, "I don't know!" Now we may think ~~that~~ <sup>that knowing, and not knowing</sup> is a common thing among children only, this is incorrect. Knowing, and not knowing is indicative of all ages of people in all walks of life from small children to elderly people. We speak of ~~things~~ some things we should do and others we should not do. Those we ~~classify~~ should not do, we classify as "No, No's." Well, even in the Bible, there are many "No, No's", but there is also the realm of "Knowing and Not Knowing." The 139th Psalm is a good example of this and a Psalm that I would entitle "A Know, Know," spelling the word ~~know~~ know.

Biblical scholars dispute the authorship of this particular Psalm, and some say the author is unknown, and others claim David as its author. I personally believe that David wrote it, regardless of what others are using as their criteria for another author. If you read this Psalm through several times, you will see in it, the hand of someone who has known and lived through all that he is writing about. The author has internalized all of this, and as agonized all of this in his own life. This is not just a lovely Psalm of lovely words and lovely phrases, but it is instead a Psalm of deep thought and deep conviction. It is a Psalm that could not have been written much like some of our modern writers sit down to pen some lines that will make a

best seller.

But let us look at it, and analyse it to see what is being said. In the first 6 verses, (read them) we see that David has drawn the conclusion that God is indeed omniscient, or in other words that he knows everything that is going on. That God understands. In today's word there is a very definite contrast between this Psalm and our thinking. Much is made today of man and his search for God. We keep saying that man is looking for God and seeking Him everywhere. But little or nothing is said of the search of God for us, and for His knowledge of who and what we are.

One of the most often heard complaints of people today, is that they are misunderstood. Our young people tell us, "You just don't understand." We live, we act, we speak in all sincerity, only to learn that our motives and our desires have been misinterpreted and we are misquoted. Walter Eccles wrote a poem about this very thing, which he entitled, "Not Understood."

(Illustration of Eccles poem, page 713, col. B Interpreter's Bible, vol. 4)  
The plea which Mr. Eccles make in the last lines of this poem are echoed by David, but with the assurance that God does see all, and know all about us, even if we are misunderstood by men.  
(read 7-12)

In the next few verses we see the questioning of David as he inquires whether he is ever able to be out of sight of God. No matter where he goes God is there, that even in the depths of hell, or the uttermost parts of the sea, God is present. ~~This~~ This can be a comforting thought as well as a disturbing one.

(Illustration of Big-Godder, Barnhouse pg 132)

This is the kind of man David was, he was a Big-Godder. God was everywhere, He knew everything about everyone, He could not be escaped from. This is the kind of God we must have, if we are to really, love and worship Him in faith and truth.

read verse 13-18,

Here David acknowledges that God was aware of him when he was just a small micro-organism that was being joined to another micro-organism within



the body of his mother. This is a theory that makes one pause to truly comprehend the love of God. Even before we were anything, God knew of us. How wonderful this is, and yet could we expect anything less from God? In His infinite love and wisdom He planned for us, He wanted us to come forth and to be a part of His creation. Yet, how often do we live like this? Do we not instead grumble and moan and sometimes even question, "Why was I ever born? Why am I here? What purpose is life for me, and how can I go on?" Our ~~praise~~ questioning should cease, and we should instead begin to praise God for all of His works, and we should echo the words of David, (vss 17,18) "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with thee."

But then David remembers that he is still among those who do not acknowledge God and he is concerned as to what will happen to these people. He wants the comfort and the assurance that the living of the ~~good~~ Godly life is not in vain, and so he speaks these thoughts out loud by stating what he believes God will do.  
(verses 19-22)

Now we must remember that this is the Old Testament and Christ had not spoken to the hearts of the Old Testament people. When Christ came He gave the new commandments and a part of these was to love your enemies. He told his followers to do good to those who despitefully use you, and to seek to love all men, whether good or evil. But one thing He did not tell us to do, and that was to love Sin. He said to love the sinner, but not to love the Sin. In essence this is a part of what David is saying in these verses. He is saying that he is radically disturbed by those who are going against the will of God, and he cannot stand this type of living and he is counting these people as enemies of God. Which is what they were. David is showing forth righteous indignation which is proper and just. Jesus showed forth this type of thinking when he cast out those who were buying and selling in the Temple. But the danger in righteous indignation is that

we can become judge and jury in the lives of other people. We must not do this, but must instead, commend them to the care of Almighty God, and let God be the judge of all men, including us.

(read verses 23-24)

David closes ~~his~~ this Psalm with a prayer. He is praying that God will search his heart and his soul, and his mind. He is asking God to look inward deeply and to see if there is anything there that is wicked, and then to lead him to everlasting life. It is not only a prayer, but it is a prayer of self-confession and self-examination. No one would pray a prayer such as this if he were not completely willing to have his life completely open to the all-searching eye of Almighty God.

David seeks in all of this Psalm to <sup>have God know him</sup> ~~know~~ God, to be known of God, and to know God as well. This then could be called "A Know, Know," Psalm. Paul, in I Corinthians 13:12 states this same thing in yet another way, He says, "Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known." To know and to be known is the essence of being a Christian.

(Illustration of man/operation, and testimony, (singing hymn before operation and death)).

Here was a man who knew in whom he could place his complete trust and confidence, in fact place his very life. This is what we should all be able to do. We should echo the words of ~~this Psalmist~~ David and be able to say as he did, "Search me O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Know me, and whether Christ lives within me. Test me and see how strong my faith is. Cleanse me from all evil and wickedness and lead me ever toward eternal life with you.

To know Jesus Christ is to be able to speak thus with complete faith and assurance. To know the Saviour is to know the Father. To know that He lived and died for <sup>us</sup> ~~me~~ is to know that which leads us in the way everlasting. May we each be "A Know, Know" in this life and may we be "A Know, Know" in God's eternal kingdom through our knowing Jesus Christ as our Saviour. <sup>also</sup>



A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. WALLACE FEDER, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
GORDON KENNEDY, JEFF CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "WINDS THROUGH OLIVE TREES" REES  
"NAZARETH" GOUNOD

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 93 "ARISE, THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "ETERNAL GOD, IN WHOM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING, WHOSE FACE IS HIDDEN FROM US BY OUR SINS, AND WHOSE MERCY WE FORGET IN THE BLINDNESS OF OUR HEARTS; CLEANSE US, WE BESEECH THEE, FROM ALL OUR OFFENSES, AND DELIVER US FROM PROUD THOUGHTS AND VAIN DESIRES; THAT WITH LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS WE MAY DRAW NEAR TO THEE; CONFESSING OUR FAULTS, CONFIDING IN THY GRACE, AND FINDING IN THEE OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THY SON, AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 1: 26-38

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN No. 104 "ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS" SCOTT  
SOLO BY VON MALONEY

HANGING OF GREENS - DARRYL MASTER, DAVID VENBEL,  
BRADLEY AMOS, GREG BOSKO AND RANDY DELLEN.

ANTHEM: "ALONG THE OLDEN CHRISTMAS ROAD" WILSON

SERMON: "SONGS IN THE NIGHT: SONG OF EMMANUEL!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 88 "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "FOREVER THINE" FRICK

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MR. & MRS. FRANCIS H. MAXWELL IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES"

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN  
REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER AND CHARLES PENAR.  
ELDER AND MRS. PAUL CAMPBELL WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL  
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 237.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. SHARON

STAUFFER AND LAUREL STAUFFER.

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING

WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURS. - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE  
ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

THE NEW ADVENT WREATH WHICH IS BEING USED FOR THE FIRST  
WAS A GIFT FROM MR. & MRS. JOHN CHUHRA - MR. CHUHRA  
WAS A FORMER MEMBER - NOW RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY.  
POINSETTA CHART AND FLOWER CHART WILL BE SENT AROUND  
TODAY - PRICES ARE STILL NOT AVAILABLE FOR POINSETTA'S,  
FLOWERS ARE \$8.00 AS OF NOW.

THE PRICE EFFECTIVE ON THE BIBLES WITH THE COUPONS  
IS GOOD UNTIL DEC. 25, HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT EXPECT  
TO GET THEM BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF THEY ARE NOT ORDERED  
SHORTLY.

BASKETBALL SIGN-UP SHEET IS IN THE NARTHEX ON THE  
BULLETIN BOARD, OR YOU CAN SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE NOW.

THE LOVE, KINDNESS AND THOUGHTFULNESS SHOWN TO US BY  
THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN VERY MUCH  
APPRECIATED. THANK YOU - MR. & MRS. W. W. PFABE.

TONIGHT - 7:00-8:00 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

MRS. RALPH DREHER WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO  
VISITED HER, SENT CARDS AND PRAYERS. SHE WOULD ALSO  
LIKE TO THANK REV. LINK AND BROTHER COOPER.

TUES. BIBLE STUDY HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURS. EVENINGS  
AT THE CHURCH FOR THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND TUES.  
AND MAYBE FIND IT MORE CONVENIENT.

## THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

(THE ORGANIST PLAYS CHRISTMAS MUSIC SOFTLY DURING THE FOLLOWING):  
THE HANGING OF THE GREENS: THE EVERGREEN, THE HOLLY,  
THE MISTLETOE, THE STAR, THE BELLS.

MINISTER: WE'RE BRINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS GREENS  
FOR CHRISTMAS ~~IS~~ <sup>IS HERE! DRAWING NEAR</sup>  
WE'RE BRINGING HOLLY, SPRUCE, AND PINE  
TO HANG UPON THE WALLS AND SHINE  
WITH CHRISTMAS LOVE AND CHEER.

WE'RE COMING WITH THE CEDAR BOUGHS!  
WE'RE BRINGING CHRISTMAS IN!  
AND ALL THE CHILDREN HERE AND THERE  
AROUND THE WORLD AND EVERYWHERE  
ARE SINGING CHRISTMAS IN.

EVERYWHERE, IN HOMES AND IN CHURCHES, WE HANG THE  
CHRISTMAS GREENS. BUT IN OUR MERRIMENT AND JOY WE CALL  
TO MIND THE MEANING OF EACH ONE. THEY ARE NOT MERE  
TRADITIONS, BUT SYMBOLS TO REMIND US OF THE GIFT OF  
GOD IN HIS SON.

### THE EVERGREENS

(AS THE READER BEGINS THIS SELECTION, THE EVERGREEN  
BEARERS COME DOWN THE AISLE OF THE CHURCH). (THEY  
CARRY VASES OR BUNCHES OF PINE, CEDAR, SPRUCE OR ANY  
EVERGREENS.)

MINISTER: BRING IN THE GREENS, THE PINE, THE FIR, THE  
CEDAR, - ALL ARE A PART OF CHRISTMAS JOY.  
THEIR SPICY FRAGRANCE AND EVERGREEN REMIND US EVEN  
WHEN ALL IS BARREN OF THE PROMISED REAWAKENING OF  
THE SANCTUARY WITH THE BOUGHS OF EVERGREEN AS A PROMISE  
OF THE NEW LIFE AND A SIGN OF THE HOPE THAT IN CHRIST  
ALL LIVE FOREVER.

(WHEN THE EVERGREEN BEARERS ARRIVE AT THE CHANCEL THEY  
STAND REVERENTLY UNTIL THE READER HAS FINISHED. THEN  
THE READER PLACES THE GREENS ON THE ALTAR OR THE BEARERS  
THEMSELVES PLACE THEM APPROPRIATELY. AFTER THE GREENS  
HAVE BEEN PLACED THE BEARERS RETURN TO THE CHANCEL STEPS.)

1.

MINISTER: THE GLORY OF LEBANON SHALL COME UNTO THEE,  
THE FIR TREE, THE PINE TREE, AND THE BOX TOGETHER, TO  
BEAUTIFY THE PLACE OF THY SANCTUARY.

(THE EVERGREEN BEARERS TURN AND TAKE SEATS IN THE FRONT  
OF THE CHURCH.)

### THE HOLLY

(THE HOLLY BEARER COMES DOWN THE AISLE. HE CARRIES A  
LARGE HOLLY WREATH.)

MINISTER: GLEAMING BRIGHTLY IN THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS  
CANDLES THE GLISTENING LEAVES AND BRIGHT BERRIES OF  
THE HOLLY REMIND US OF THE JOY AND HAPPINESS THAT COMES  
TO MANKIND AS WE REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF GOD'S SON. AS  
WE HEAR AGAIN THE WORDS OF THE OLD CAROL, WE KNOW THAT  
CHRIST WAS BORN FOR US.

(THE HOLLY BEARER PLACES THE WREATH, THEN RETURNS TO  
THE CHANCEL STEPS).

MINISTER: THE HOLLY AND THE IVY, WHEN THEY ARE BOTH  
FULL-GROWN

OF ALL THE TREES THAT ARE IN THE WOOD,  
THE HOLLY BEARS THE CROWN.

THE HOLLY BEARS A BERRY, AS RED AS ANY BLOOD.  
AND MARY BORE SWEET JESUS, TO DO POOR SINNERS GOOD.

### THE MISTLETOE

(THE HOLLY BEARER LEAVES AND THE MISTLETOE BEARER  
STARTS DOWN THE AISLE. SHE CARRIES A LARGE SPRAY OF  
MISTLETOE TIED WITH SILVER AND GREEN RIBBON.)

MINISTER: THE MISTLETOE HAS BECOME FOR US THE SIGN OF  
MERRIMENT SYMBOLIZED BY THE KISS; BUT, IN ANCIENT TIME,  
TWO WARRIORS MEETING UNDER THE MISTLETOE, THREW DOWN  
THEIR ARMS. THUS, IT BECAME A CUSTOM AMONG THE  
CHRISTIANS TO PLACE A SPRAY OF MISTLETOE UPON THE ALTAR  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME AS A REMINDER OF THE PEACE OF GOD  
AND OF THE POWER OF CHRIST TO HEAL THE HURTS OF THE  
BODY AND SOUL.

(Star bearer)  
Minister: The star has become for us a sign that  
that announced the birth of that baby in Bethlehem.  
For years people sought this sign and when it did  
come it was shared with the common people, as well  
as with royalty.

2



(Bell bearer)

"I heard the bells on Christmas day their old  
familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat of peace on  
earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,  
God is not dead nor doth he sleep,  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Again M puzzl Bcause place her son live 000.  
 If she turn up preg, Jos no marry  
 KJV say, espoused, RSV betrothed, Liv Bib engaged  
 M'S concern legit Bcause law Jews, betrothed  
 engaged, same as marriage

Betroth last 1yr/ couple no engaged phys contact  
 & only dissolved death/divorce  
 If man die, woman called widow

In 1st chap Matt Jos concern M & want divorce,  
 ang of L. appear him/assure all well, should marry  
 Knowing this, can understand M reluc hear news Gab

This essence acct how M came B with child of HSp  
 Trend last decade so, de-emp virg birth theory  
 Bis schols play dwn take out realm mirac, place  
 realm ordinary  
 Large seg. clergy no believe virg birth

Personal I no understand any1 profess faith apos cre-  
 state believe virg birth, & do not.  
 2 me this blasphemy  
 I believe virg birth, not just Bcause all expl this  
 portion scrip how came about,  
 but Bcause one short vs later on in chap,  
 37th vs, "For with G nothing shall B impossible."  
 This lead me believe G want do anything impos,  
 He do.  
 Want create purple snow, He do  
 He want Son born diff way, He do.  
 Reason: Js 2B unique/set apart/out of ordinary.  
 G can impregnate virg/make conceive if He choose

2 me very basic & simple & G can accomplish it  
 (Illustration 2 boys stories)  
 Both may been little mistaken theol, but on rt track

1 thing no read of M, she had doubts,  
 perhaps did, but no record  
 Many times we no take our roles serâmus enuf,  
 we get in project & say, "If I had only known I  
 would not have tackled this job."  
 It safe bet M had mixed emot during mths preg.  
 But regardless emots she saw role thru

And what contrast most us  
 4 we only C so far & either cannot or will not C  
 further  
 Edwin Markham tell cobbler like this  
 ( lustration cobbler & Js coming as guest)  
 M not complly know role or understand brot Him  
 in2 world/raised Him/shared Him with world

"Songs In The Night: Song Of Immanuel!"  
 Text: Isaiah 7:14,  
"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and  
 I call his name immanuel."  
 Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Story poor ragged boy being Christ child  
 10 yr girl run down street  
 1 story true, 1 false  
 strange parallel tween 2  
 We prob like hear nice stories, make feel good  
 & tell moral lessons,  
 but many times in real life these lessons no use  
 10 yr girl good examp.

What outcome plan of G if Mary "Look, I no care use  
 my body this way. Let me alone, get someone else?"  
 God prob find some1 else,  
 but point is, Mary willing B used by G/willing get  
 involved.

7th chap Is, read plan G be set motion ( read text)  
 He was say/sometime futur G intervene affairs men  
 come earth form human being  
 real signif all this G going do impossible  
 He make virgin conceive  
 Bib schols all kinds change verse.alter meaning etc  
 try make peop believe all diff ways,  
 all Bcause it phys/biolog imposs 2 take place

But hat all overlook, this work of G  
 Not man/woman sit down discuss family planning  
 It not normal way do things at all  
 It G's plan/G's method/G's intervent in world  
 Virg birth Js by infin mind/wisdom Al. G.

Lets look Luke account of event in his Gosp  
 Ang/Gab visit Mary in Nazareth  
 She surprised/troubled as well  
 Surprise Bcause no everyday have ang visit  
 Can understand troubled if try visualize how we  
 would react same circum  
 If sudden we confront by mess. of L as ang,  
 most us severely frightened I sure

This sit M find self in, along with surprise hears  
 some unnerving things, 2 say least  
 He told hily favored/L with her/blesses among women  
 Gab explain she have baby/name Js/2 B Son most Hi  
 this God/He 2 B King rule unending kingdom



which prove again we never complly know when what 3  
we do or say, may be done for Xp Himself

We go thru same scrips ea yr  
& sing same songs, & I often wonder how often it just  
mechanics we go thru

But if truly seek enter in2 experience of Xp child  
come anew into lives,  
it can B total new experience

But must B careful no call upon G 2 come in2 world  
as ancient Jews, & then no recognize when He appear  
on scene.

We sing our Songs In The Night,  
but 2 often we sing without expect G 2 appear in  
that Babe of Bethlehem.

We sing, (O Come, O Come Immanuel)

Let us not only sing 4 coming of Immanuel, G with us,  
but let us know He has indeed come,  
& may He live in each of our lives as our Lord and  
Saviour Js Xp.

Come, let us this Advent season go even unto Bethlehe  
to see this thing which has come to pass, which the  
Lord has made known unto us.

"Songs In The Night: Song Of Immanuel!"

Text: Isaiah 7:14, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

(Story of poor ragged boy and being Christ child in disguise)

(Several years ago a news item appeared in the newspaper that told of a 10 year old girl who was running down a main highway, without any clothes on, screaming for help and no one would stop. The story of the ragged little boy ~~xxxxx~~ who turned out to be the Christ child is only a legend. The story of the 10 year old girl is true. But what a strange parallel between the two. Somehow I cannot help but think that we like to hear nice little stories that make us feel good and tell us wonderful little moral lessons, but when it comes to confronting things in real life, we turn away from what we should do. I cannot help but believe that many of the people who passed the little girl by were people who called themselves Christians.

What do you suppose the outcome of the plan of God would have been had Mary said to the angel of the Lord, "Look, I don't care to have my body used as a means to do something for God. Let Him get someone else and let me alone. I don't care to get involved." Probably God would have found someone more worthy to bear His Son, but the point of all of this is that Mary was willing to be used of God, for His purpose. She was willing to get involved.

In the <sup>7</sup>~~14~~th chapter of Isaiah we read of this plan of God being set in motion almost 8 centuries before it actually took place. Isaiah wrote, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." He was saying that sometime in the future God was going to intervene into the affairs of man, and He was going to come to earth in the form of a human being. The real significance of all of this was that God was going to do something that was impossible to do, He was going to make a virgin conceive. Now biblical scholars of all kinds have taken this verse and they have changed it and they have altered its meaning, they have tried to have people believe it in all kinds of different ways, simply because it is a biological impossibility for a virgin to conceive. But what is overlooked



in all of this is that this is the workings of God. It is not a man and a woman sitting down together and ~~discussing the~~ planning to have a family. It is not the normal way of doing things at all. It is God's plan, God's method, and God's intervention into the world. The virgin birth of Jesus came about by the infinite mind and wisdom of Almighty God.

This is an issue that has been the cause of much controversy in the present day Christian Church. There are those who tell us that we need not believe this prophecy because it could not have happened as stated. There are those who tell us that it is unnecessary to cling to such old-fashioned beliefs. Surprisingly a goodly portion of the clergy do not believe in the Virgin Birth. I do not know what the present day statistics are, but

But let us look at this event as it is ~~portrayed~~ portrayed in Luke's Gospel. As the angel of the Lord, identified as Gabriel visits Mary at her home in Nazareth, Mary is not only surprised by this visit, but she is troubled by his greeting to her. We can understand why she would be surprised, because it is not every day that an angel of God appeared to individuals. We can also understand ~~xxxx~~ why she was troubled if we ~~place ourselves in her~~ try to visualize how we would react in similar circumstances. If suddenly we were confronted with a messenger of the Lord, in the form of another being, most of us would be severely frightened I am sure.

Well this is the situation Mary found herself in, and along with her surprise at this unexpected turn of events, she hears some things that are rather unnerving to say the least. She is told that she is highly favored, the Lord is with her, and she is blessed among women. ~~xxxxbigreasonfor~~ ~~Mary's concern over~~ Gabriel then explains to Mary what is going to take place. He tells her she is going to conceive a child to be named Jesus, and this child will be the Son of the Highest, which was God, and that he was going to be a king and rule over a kingdom that was unending.

Again, Mary is puzzled because this would place her in ~~xxxxxx~~ a bad light as far as Joseph was concerned. If she suddenly turns up pregnant, Joseph is not going to marry her. The KJV says she was espoused to Joseph,

and the RSV says betrothed, while the Living Bible says engaged. ~~This is~~ Mary's concern here was legitimate, because in the law of the Jews, being betrothed or engaged was as binding as marriage. The betrothal lasted for a year, and even though ~~they~~ the couple did not engage in physical contact, the betrothal could only be ~~broken~~ dissolved by divorce. If the man to whom a woman was betrothed should happen to die, the woman was called a widow. Once two people were betrothed only death could break the bond, or in rare cases a divorce. We read in the first chapter of Matthew that Joseph was concerned about Mary being pregnant and wanted to divorce her privately, but again an Angel of the Lord appeared to him and assured him that all was well, and that he should marry Mary. Knowing this then, we can readily understand Mary's reluctance to hear the news of the Angel Gabriel.

~~But the one portion of this Scripture that really~~ Now this in essence is the account of how Mary came to be with child by the Holy Spirit. The trend for the past decade or more has been to de-emphasize this virgin birth theory. Biblical scholars have been playing it down and taking it out of the ~~extra~~ miraculous and placing it in the realm of the ordinary. A large segment of the clergy no longer believe in the Virgin Birth. Personally I cannot understand how anyone can deliberately profess their faith using the Apostles Creed, and state they believe in the Virgin Birth, when they do not. To me this is blasphemy. I believe that Jesus Christ was indeed born of the Virgin Mary, <sup>just</sup> <sup>explained</sup> because it is ~~stated~~ in this portion of scripture how it all came about, but because of one short little verse further on in this Scripture. In the 37th verse of Matthew chapter 1 we read, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." This would lead me to believe that if God wanted it to snow purple snow, He would do it. And if He wanted His Son to be born in a different way in order for Him to be unique and set Him apart from the rest of us, then God could impregnate a woman and make her conceive while she was still a virgin.

To me it is very basic and very simple and something I believe that God can do and accomplish. It is as simple as the little boy who said there were two



virgins in the Bible. "The Virgin Mary, and the King James Virgin." Or like another boy who drew a nativity scene in school ~~xx~~ when the teacher told the class to draw what Christmas meant to them. She looked at his paper and he had drawn ~~xxxxxx and xchild~~ very visibly Mary, Joseph and the baby. But he had also drawn a rather fat looking individual and the teacher asked about it, and he replied, "That Round John Virgin, like we sing about in Silent Night." Both of these boys may have been a little mistaken in their theology, but at least they were on the right track.

One thing we do not read of Mary and that is she had doubts. Perhaps she did, but it is not recorded. Many times we do not take our roles in life seriously enough and when we become involved in a project or find ourselves in the middle of it we say, "Boy if I had only known what I was letting myself in for I would not have tackled this job." It is a safe bet that Mary must have had mixed emotions many times during those months of her pregnancy. But regardless of her mixed emotions, she saw her chosen role through. And what a contrast she is to most of us, for we can only see so far and either cannot or refuse to see any farther. Edwin Markham tells of a cobbler who was much like this:

(Illustration Cobbler and Jesus coming as guest.)

Mary, not completely knowing or understanding her role, brought Him into the world and raised Him, and shared Him with all the world. Which proves again that we never completely know when what we are doing or saying, may be done or said to or for Christ Himself.

We go through the same Scriptures each year and we sing the same songs, and I often wonder how often it is merely mechanics that we are going through. But if we truly seek to enter into the experience of the Christ child coming anew into our lives and into the world, it can be a totally new experience. But we must be careful that we do not call upon God to come into the world as the ancient Jews, and then not recognize Him when He appears on the scene. We sing the "Songs In The Night," but too often we sing them without expecting God to appear in that Babe of Bethlehem.

We sing,

O come O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

O come Thou dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thy advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come desire of nations,  
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease,  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel."

Let us not only sing for the coming of Immanuel, God with us, but let us know that He has indeed come, and may He live in each of our lives as our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Come, let us this advent season go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.



Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 8, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
GORDON KENNEDY, JEFF CAMPBELL - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "JESUS, THE SAVIOR DRAWETH NEAR" STAIRS  
"LITTLE SUITE FOR CHRISTMAS" WILSON

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 112 "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

\*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE POWER TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL, HEAR US AS WE CONFESS OUR SINS. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE FAILED THEE AND OURSELVES. REGARDLESS OF HOW GOOD WE HAVE BEEN, WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN THE KIND OF PERSON THAT YOU WANT US TO BE. SOMETIMES OUR BELIEF IN OUR OWN GOODNESS HAS PREVENTED US FROM SEEING OUR SINFULNESS. WE HAVE FELT THAT ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAS MADE US BETTER THAN OTHERS. OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO OUR HIDDEN SINS, AS WE MAKE A SINCERE AND HUMBLE CONFESSION IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 1: 1-14

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

HYMN No. 109 "AWAY IN A MANGER"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

ACOLYTE PINS: STEVE BASEHORE  
GORDON KENNEDY.

OFFERING

ACOLYTE OFFERTORY: ANTHEM: "COME THOU LONG - EXPECTED JESUS" BY WILSON CHOIR AND SOLO BY HOWDY BOLAM.

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

ANTHEM: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" WILSON

WOMEN'S TWO-PART CHORUS AND CHOIR

SERMON: "SONGS IN THE NIGHT: SONG OF BETHLEHEM!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 118 "THE FIRST NOWELL"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "GLORIA" FROM THE LITTLE SUITE WILSON

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. AND MRS. RALPH TAIT IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES" SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

HOSPITALIZED: JAMES STEWART, ROOM 10335, PRES. UNIV. HOSP. PITTS. 15213; MRS. HARRY L. DUTTER - BCMH.?

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. STEVE VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 197.

THOSE ELECTED FOR ELDER: ROBERT BASEHORE AND EUGENE STEPHENSON; THOSE ELECTED DEACON WERE: MRS. JOAN MASTER, DONALD KENNEDY, PAUL PFABE AND WILLIAM PFLUGH.

TONIGHT - 6-7 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

TONIGHT - 7-9 - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING

THURS. - 10:30 A.M. - MEETING AND LUNCHEON AT MRS. - OUT

HELEN SHEPPECK'S HOME FOR THE MARY MARTHA CIRCLE.

FRI. - 6:00 - ARC POT LUCK SUPPER - THE GROUP WILL

DECORATE ONE TREE AND PUT UP THE MANGER SCENE.

WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TODAY TO MRS.

SHIRLEY LINK WHO HAS A BIRTHDAY TODAY.

NEXT SUNDAY - CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IN THE

UNDERCROFT - COME OUT AND JOIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP

OF THE CHURCH - WE HEARD SANTA WOULD BE THERE.

THE BIBLES IN THE THIRD ORDER ARE IN NOW - PICK THEM

UP IN THE OFFICE.

THE NEW 1975 ENVELOPES ARE ALL OUT - PLEASE DO NOT

USE THEM UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN JAN. 1975 - AT THAT

TIME PLEASE THROW ALL BACK YEARS AWAY - EACH YEAR

YOU GET A DIFFERENT NUMBER AND IT IS VERY CONFUSING

TO GO BACK AND PICK UP OLD NUMBERS.

POINSETTA'S WILL ALL BE \$5.50 - PLEASE LEAVE B. KNOW NOW.

Welcome visitors/make feel at home

This why decor lites trees/houses/windows  
 This why lite candles in ch.  
 not mere custom/or have something do,  
 it signify Js Xp lite of world present with us,  
 When exting end serv, mean Js Xp depart with us,  
 & lit of World carried 4th in2 world by ea worshi  
 It show Js Xp not confine this sanc, but anywhere  
 is follows take Him

Lit Js brot at birth, & lite He continue bring in  
 lives men/women thruout world, is lite bring order  
 out chaos.  
 In beg world at crea G say, "Let B lite, & was lite"  
 this lite bring order out chaos,  
 At birth Js G say in essen again 2 world, "Let B lit  
 He send 4th lite shine in 2 darkn settle over worl

A darkn despair/frustration/hung/greed/  
 " " disease/pover/hate/worry/sin in gen  
 " " only overcome by interven force more power  
 then itsel

(Illus. man phone booth)  
 So is with world & us,  
 if we close harts dark surround us,  
 & ope live lite be offer 2 us by G,  
 (read text again) last part  
 Where once dark/deapair/ there now lite/hope  
 When Js come in2 hart indiv uncerts/doubts gone  
 That pers never walk dark again,  
 4 he have some1 live inside him, can dispel  
 all fears/blacknesses make life nitemare

Phillips Brooks noted minis H. Trin, Phila 1900's  
 Cong send abrod 4 yr/Dec. Holy Land  
 Xmas Eve old ch Js suppos born in Beth.  
 7 ten peop sing hims as wors G that ch  
 2 yrs latefilled emot, sat & wrote,  
 (Illus O Little Town Of Bethlehem)  
 only coup mins compose entire him,  
 this choir sang as anthem this AM

Mr. Brooks write "Everlast lite, shine dark sts Beth  
 If let minds wander, can C anc town nestle dark of  
 entire region Palestine,  
 & how news birth king dispel some drear dark of day

Men of old ask, "Where He born king Jews?"  
 Peop 2day still ask, "Where our king?"  
 Some found/somes still search  
 Perhaps can sum up old fable,  
 (Fable Indian merchant)  
 as 1nce again wend way lit town Beth we need  
 this lite touch our lives & fill with lite

"Songs In The Night: Song Of Bethlehem!"

Text: John 1:4-5,  
 "Him was life; and the life was the Light of men.  
 And the Light shineth in the darkness; and the  
 darkness overcame it not."

Scripture: John 1:1-14

(Illus. Luther Xmas tree)  
 In ancient world Js born, lite very import.  
 pagan religis all had beliefs bout lite/darkness  
 mystery religis mostly Persia/delt lite/dark.  
 Gnostics partic, theory lite/dark

Gnosis/Gnostic deriv, mean knowledge  
 Agnostic from Gnosis  
 Gnostics possess knowled, knew ans 2 things  
 2 them lite/dark relm gods good/evil

constant strug tween good/evil  
 Jn speak Js as lite, he tell Gnostics here G end  
 darkness  
 In fact he state, (read text)

In Js, fulness life  
 this life answ from G 2 lit dark in lives men  
 "And lite shineth dark/& dark overcame it not."

Must remem Jn use past tense when speak peop,  
 cause Js lived/died/rose/ascended,  
 He now lite shine 4th in world  
 Satan, G of dark unable overcome this Light  
 Thus Jn pose formidable argum 4 his foes

If read other Scrips C light referred many other pas  
 Go! Matt, Js birth herald brite star, or lite  
 This lite also sign,  
 Is. spoke birth Imman, told G give sign  
 Sign not only birth baby mirac way/but sign star

When ang appear sheps, "And glory Lord shone round  
 about them" lite again.  
 Js transfig B4 disc on Mt, "His clothes white as  
 snow, & His face shone with lite"  
 At tomb ang appear in brite daz white.

Each instanrefer Light, this Light overcome dark.  
 (Illus girl & mother lite of world)  
 "his Jn try convey any1 herd/red words,  
 JS LITE OF WORLD



Let us not just look 4 babe/star,  
let us seek source that lite, which Js Xp,  
The Lord, Our Saviour, who is lite of world

3

This lite that dispel dark gloom inflation,  
oil crises, power blackouts & all ills of 2day.  
This lite can mend broken homes/marriages,  
t' 3 lite can shine dark of endless days of despair  
4 any & all who will come 2 lite.

Chorus old hymn sung as yg lad SS invites,  
"Come to the lite, tis shining 4 thee; sweetly the  
lite has dawned upon ~~me~~ me, once I was blind, but  
now I can see, the light of the world is Jesus."

These are the Songs In The Night, &bin partic  
Song of Beth.

Will U come 2 the lite?

" " surrender 2 Him & let Him shine in dark  
of your hart?

If never done so, 2day day 2 do it.

If any here not complete sure relationship Js Xp,  
& would like talk about it,

or discuss with me,

C me in office after service,

or contact 2day, or sometime this week,

& I B glad talk with U about it.

"Songs In The Night: Song Of Bethlehem!"

Text: John 1:4,5,

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness overcame it not."

Scripture: John 1:1-14

(Illustration of Luther and Christmas tree)

In the ancient world into which Jesus was born, light was very important. The pagan religions all had beliefs about light and darkness. The mystery religions which came mostly from Persia, all dealt with beliefs about light and darkness. The Gnostic religion in particular really delved into the theories of light and dark. The word Gnosis from which the word Gnostic is derived, meant knowledge. We have the word agnostic today which is a derivative from Gnosis. The Gnostics were people who were named thus, because they possessed the knowledge, and they supposedly knew the answers to things. To them light was the realm or the area in which the good gods lived and operated. Conversely darkness was the realm in which the evil gods operated and lived. There was to them a constant struggle taking place between good and evil. So when John speaks in his Gospel, using the term Word to apply to Jesus, and pointing to The Word being the Light, he is probably telling the Gnostics and the followers of the mystery religions in that area, that here was The God to overcome the darkness. In fact he states, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." In this Jesus was all of the fullness of life. This life is the answer from God to light the darkness in the lives of men. Then he goes on, "And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness overcame it not."

We must remember that John is using past tense when he is speaking to these people, because Jesus has lived on earth, He has suffered death, and He has arisen and ascended to God. So John is telling them that the light shone forth into the darkness of the world. ~~There was~~ Satan, the god of darkness was unable to overcome this Light, though he did his worst. Thus we can see that John poses a formidable argument for his foes.

But, if we read in other parts of scripture, we see that light is referred to in many other passages. In the Gospel of Matthew for instance we read that the birth of Jesus was heralded by a bright star, or light in other words.



This light was also a sign. Isaiah spoke of the birth of Immanuel, he told of God giving a sign. The sign was not only the birth of a baby in a miraculous way, but the sign of the savior as well.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds we read, "And the glory of the Lord shone round about them," light again. When Jesus was transfigured before His disciples on the Mount, "His clothes were as white as snow and His face shone with a light." At the tomb the angel appeared in ~~white~~ bright and dazzling white. Now each of these instances make a specific mention of light, or the appearance of light. In other words, all of these references to light, was something these people could understand and identify with. The Light was that which overcame darkness.

(Illustration of girl and mother is light of world)

This is what John was trying to convey to anyone who heard or read his words, "That Jesus Christ, is the Light of the World." This is why we decorate with lights on trees and in windows of our homes. This is why we light candles in church. It is not to observe some time honored custom, or to have something to do. But it is to signify that Jesus Christ, the Light of the World is present. And when we extinguish the candles at the end of the service, we do so to signify that the Light of the World is ~~xxxx~~ departing with us, and being carried out into the world by each worshiper who has been here. It is to show that Jesus Christ is not confined to just this sanctuary, but is anywhere that His followers will take Him.

The light that Jesus brought at His birth and the light He continues to bring into the lives of men and women throughout the world, is a light that brings order out of chaos. In the beginning of the world at its creation, God said, "Let there be light" and there was light, and this light brought order out of chaos. At the birth of Jesus, God was in essence saying to the world again, "Let there be light." He was sending forth His light to shine into the darkness that had settled over the world. A darkness of despair, and frustration. A darkness of hunger and greed. A darkness disease, poverty, hatred, worry, and sin in general. A darkness that could only be overcome by the intervention

of a force that was more powerful than the darkness itself.

(Illustration of man in railway station phone booth)

So it is with the world and with us, if we close our hearts to the darkness surrounding us, and we open our lives to the Light that is being offered to us by God, "The Light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness cannot overcome it." Where once there was darkness and despair there is Light and Hope. When Jesus comes into the heart of an individual, the uncertainties and doubts are gone. That person need never walk in darkness again, for he has someone living within his heart that can dispel all of the fears and blacknesses that make life a nightmare.

Phillips Brooks was a noted minister who served the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia in the 1800's. His parishioners sent him abroad to travel and study for a year. In December of that year his travels took him to Bethlehem. There he retraced the steps of His Saviour Jesus Christ, and on Christmas Eve he went to the little town of Bethlehem. He stood in the old church, close to the spot where Jesus was supposedly born, and he listened to the people singing hymns as they worshiped God in this church. Two years later he remembered the night, and he was so filled with emotion, that he sat down and wrote, "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight." It had only taken him a few minutes to compose <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ entire hymn. This is the lovely hymn our choir sang as a part of their anthem.

What Mr. Brooks mentions is the Everlasting Light shining in the dark streets of Bethlehem. And if we let our minds wander, we can visualize that little ancient town, nestled in the darkness of that entire region of Palestine and how the news of the birth of a king must have dispelled some of the dreary darkness of those days. Men of old came and asked, "Where is He who is born King of the Jews?" And people today are still asking, "Where Is Our King?" Some have found Him and others are still searching.

Perhaps we can best sum all of this up with an old fable.



(Illustration of fable of Indian merchant)

As once again we wend our way to that little Town of Bethlehem, we need to have this light touch our lives, and fill us with light. Let us not just look for the Babe, nor for the star, but let us seek the source of that light, which is Jesus Christ, the Lord, our Saviour who is the Light of the World.

This is the light that dispel the darkness and gloom of inflation and oil crises, power blackouts and all our myriad ills of today. This is the light that can mend our broken homes and marriages. This is the light that can shine into the darkness of endless days of despair for any and all who will come to the light. A chorus of an old, old hymn which I sang in Sunday School as a young boy invites, "Come to the light, tis shining for thee; sweetly the light has dawned upon me, once I was blind, but now I can see; the light of the world is Jesus." These are the Songs In The Night, and in particular The Song of Bethlehem. ~~Will~~ Will you come to the Light? Will you surrender your life to Him, and let Him shine in the darkness of your heart? If you have never done so, today is the day to do it. If ~~any~~ there are any ~~of~~ here, who are not completely sure of your relationship with Jesus Christ and would like to talk about it, or ~~at~~ discuss it with me, you may see me in my office following the service, or contact me ~~xxxx~~ today, or sometime this week, and I will be happy to counsel with you.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 15, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODIE MARTE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES THE MORNING STAR" BACH  
"QUIET SONGS OF THE HOLY NIGHT" SMITH

SILENT PRAYER

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 102 "HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*EXHORTATION

\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O CHRIST WHO HAS CALLED US IN LOVE TO BE ONE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH GOD, FORGIVE US WHEN WE HAVE NOT BEEN TRUE TO YOUR CALL; WHEN OUR FAMILIES HAVE NOT BEEN ONE IN CHRIST DIRECTING US TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH THROUGH A CHURCH UNITED IN YOUR NAME; WHEN WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO LEARN YOUR WILL FOR US; WHEN WE HAVE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS NEEDS FOR HEALTHY GROWTH. BE MERCIFUL AND UNDERSTANDING, GRANTING US FORGIVENESS AND THE WILL AND DESIRE TO GROW IN CHRISTIAN UNITY. AMEN."

\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 2: 1-12

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

HYMN No. 106 "WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT"

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*CALL TO PRAYER

\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "THE BLESSED BIRD" BRISTOL  
ANTHEM: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" (YOUTH CHOIR)  
(SPIRITUAL)

SERMON: "SONGS IN THE NIGHT: SONG OF A STAR!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 105 "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "THREE KINGS" HOPKINS

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. JAMES STEWART FOR MRS. ESTHER YOUNG (MOTHER) SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR AND DON KINGSLEY. DEACON AND MRS. ROBERT KNAUER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. MARGARET COVERT AND

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. O.H. (DOROTHY) NICHOLAS - ICU, MR. JAMES STEWART - PRES. UNIV. HOSPITAL. MR. BERT KNAUER - BCMH. *MRS. BEATRICE HILFRED*

TONIGHT - 7:00 - CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IN THE UNDERCROFT - THERE WILL BE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL - SANTA WILL BE HERE - LADIES DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE COOKIES.

WED. - 6:00 P.M. - GOLDEN CIRCLE ANNUAL TUREEN DINNER - HUSBAND OR FRIENDS ARE INVITED.

FRIDAY - 6:30 - THE ARC WILL GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR SHUT-INS - LEAVING SHARP AT 6:30. AFTER CAROLING REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE BRIDE MCBRIDE HOME.

NEXT SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION - 11:00 A.M.

DON'T FORGET AT 11:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE - HOLY COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN HERE FOR THIS SERVICE - MAKE IT A MUST THIS YEAR. MRS. H. L. DUTTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT CARDS, VISITED HER AND REMEMBERED HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

OUR BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO REV. AND MRS. RALPH C. LINK WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 23RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TODAY.

THE LAST OF THE POINSETTA'S WILL BE ORDERED IN THE MORNING. JAN. 12, 19, 26; FEB. 2, 16 AND 23 ARE OPEN FOR FLOWERS.

*FURN. NEEDED IN THE 6 KIDS  
WELCOME VISITORS*



But so often overlook, found in 10th vs  
We read (read text)

They overcome joy  
knew had reached destin 2 which travel  
that star beckoned/shone 4 them,  
led 2 source that lite was born  
They came serching & found what serch 4

Many others still serch not aware watt seek  
(Illustration 15 yr boy & suicide)

Another young man 34 died cancer 1954 Alfred S Burt  
was jazz musician  
ea Xmas compose Carol, send parents Xmas card  
(Illustration Star Carol) greeting

Men came East seek king/follow star  
yg man look heavens saw Js in stars  
nother yg man looked heavens saw nothing

These "Songs In The Night"  
& partic "Song Of A Star"

This messa, convey world cott up hollow laugh/gait,  
of celebrate Boome more HOLIDAY, than HOLY DAY

This messa bind upon ea us,  
must share 15yr olds world, who serch 4 life answer  
This messa, must share all those our day,  
who tho surround fun/games, lost/alone

The message: "Unto you has been born this day, A  
Saviour who is CHRIST THE LORD."

message that this Sav's birth was herald by star  
A star ~~xxxxxx~~ when seen by men,

~~xxxxxx~~  
"THEY REJOICED EXCEEDINGLY WITH GREAT JOY."

& stars trees/windows/homes/churches/everywhere,  
should remind us JS XP

That we come 2 point,  
"When ~~xxxxxx~~ the stars in the heavens I  
see, Ever and always, I'll think of Thee."

That LORD JESUS may be the star shining in our heart  
and the heavens of our lives.

"Songs In The Night: Song Of A Star!"

Text: Matthew 2:10,

"When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly  
with great joy."

(Illustrations flowers origin 2)

2 story legend show 1 thing

gifts of love  
from childhood on look 4ward Xmas day.  
day got things  
perhaps still look 4ward Xmas  
must learn day giving/sharing insted time take

realpurp Adv. 2 prepare 4 Xmas

4 birth take place & recog gift G.

G step in affairs men,  
chose way men unders. / human/ baby/  
almost all love babies

Many times reach this stage hear peop groan/moan  
grumb/ Xmas 2 commerc  
many time rt.

Summer Conn. K-Mart? winter stuff Xmas stuff  
Sale peop/clerks rub ach feet, "I glad Xmas over"  
All bus/bus/hurry/scurry/  
run/rush/push/shove/cook/bake/clean

all this lose real mean

2 time yr special Me East/Xmas

Ea fill hart overflow

Not Bcause festivity/fun,

but speci signif 4 me personal

I recog day G did someth 4 me.

ME as miser as am G thot enuf me show luv 2 me

is any wonder lose site Xmas about when Js Xp

take 2nd place 2 Santa Cl, East. bun

S. Cl/E. Bun fine & fun,

but should teach child give/get Bcause G gave 2 us

Not only teach childr but selves also so

Bcome writ harts, & kno what all about

Peop say, "Put Xp Back in Xmas"

but how can if suppos Xpians join others not Xpians

& make Xmas nother day get drunk,

or wild immoral office party/plant party

Only way put Xp back Xmas,

B Xpian all actions/deeds/words/lives,

not just Sunday or when convenient

Scrip AM tell Wise men/babe/gifts etc

"Songs In The Night: Song Of A Star!"

2:10

Text: Matthew ~~2:11, ~~When opening their treasures~~~~

"When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men who were following the star came upon a young shepherd boy. This lad was left behind by the other shepherds who had gone to pay homage to Jesus. His duty was to tend the fires while they were gone. The boy saw the treasures these men were taking to Jesus, and he was very sad. He could not go to Bethlehem because he had no gift and besides he had to take care of the fires. Suddenly, he had an idea. He dashed from fire to fire piling up the wood so the fires would maintain themselves for sometime. Then he ran down the hill toward the town of Bethlehem. Outside of the stable he stopped, he still had no present to bring. But then he remembered that on the way down the hill he had noticed a pretty little flower growing by itself. So he ran up the hill, plucked the flower and again came to the stable. He entered very quietly and watched in fascination while the kings gave their magnificent gifts, and he wished he had something a little more elegant to give. Mary, the mother looked in his direction and motioned for him to come closer saying, "We have been waiting for you, come bring your precious gift." He very timidly approached the manger and very gently placed the flower in the baby's hand. The baby smiled and raised the flower to his lips and kissed it. When he put the flower down, the center of the flower had turned a beautiful gold, where his lips had touched it. And that is how the flower we call the Daisy got its yellow center.

Another little boy named Juan who lived in the Mexican village of Cardenas, was very sad one Christmas Eve, because he had nothing to bring to the church that night. It was the custom that each one would bring their gift to the church so the three wise men could carry the gifts to the babe of Bethlehem. On this Christmas Eve he found himself standing outside the little church listening to the beautiful music and wishing he had a gift to bring. He stood on tiptoe and peeked in the windows to see all the beautiful gifts that had been placed on the altar. Surely the Holy child will be pleased this



birthday he thought. He stomped his little feet clad in shoes worn through in the snow to keep warm, and clasped his thin sweater around him. Sadly he knelt in the snow to pray. Though he tried very hard not to cry, the tears trickled out of his tightly closed eyelids, and rolled down his cheek on onto the snow. Suddenly the music seemed to grow louder, and he felt a great warmth as though the summer sun were shining. He opened his eyes and as he looked at the ground he saw a beautiful flower growing where he was kneeling. Very excitedly he touched it, and thought at last he had a gift for the Christ Child. With great reverence ~~xxx~~ because he knew it was a miracle, he plucked it and took it into the church and laid it on the altar. The flower had beautiful scarlet petals and a yellow center, and ever afterward the Mexicans called it the flower of the Holy Night. In our country we call it the Poinsettia.

Now these two little stories of flowers and the Christ Child are merely legends, but they show one thing, and that is the giving of gifts of love. Gifts that were given from the heart, and thereby gifts that are priceless. Most of us from childhood on, have looked forward to Christmas Day. We looked forward to it because it was a day in which we got things. We didn't think of much else, but what we were going to receive. Perhaps we still look forward with anticipation to Christmas morning. We can readily understand this in children because to them it is a tremendous amount of fun, and so it should be. But we must learn, and teach our children as well, that it is a time of giving as well as getting. It is a time of sharing instead of a time of taking. This is the real purpose of Advent, to prepare us for Christmas. For the birth that is to take place and to recognize it as the gift from God. To know for a certainty that God stepped into the affairs of men, and He chose to do so in a way that we could understand, and that was in the form of a human in a baby at that. Almost everyone loves babies. But many times we reach this stage of the Christmas season and we hear people moaning and complaining that Christmas is too commercial. And many times they are right. When we were in Connecticut we went into a K-Mart or some other

large store and they were putting away the summer things and replacing them with winter items, among which were Christmas decorations. Salespeople and sales-clerks everywhere, begin to rub their aching feet around about now, and ~~more~~ more than one of them is heard to exclaim, "I'll be glad when Christmas is over." Everything is hustle and bustle, hurry and get done. Run, and take care of this, rush and do that. Push and shove, and bake and cook and clean and scrub. In all of this we lose the real meaning of what it is all about.

There are two seasons in the year that are really special to me. One is Easter and the other is Christmas. Each one fills my heart to overflowing. Not because ~~of~~ they are holidays of festivity and fun, but because of the significance it has for me personally. I recognize and realize that each of them is a day observed in which God did something for me. Me, as miserable as I am, God thought enough of me to show His love toward me. Is it any wonder we lose sight of what Christmas is all about when <sup>and Easter</sup> Jesus Christ takes second place to Santa Claus, and the Easter Bunny precedes the risen Saviour. Santa Claus is fine, and so is the Easter Bunny, but we should teach our children that all of the giving and getting is done because God gave to us. We need not only teach it to our children, but to ourselves as well, so that it becomes written on our hearts and we really know what it is all about.

People tell us to "Put Christ Back In Christmas," but how can we if all who are supposed to act like Christians join all of those who merely see Christmas as another day to get drunk, or to have a wild immoral party at their place of employment? The only way we will ever get Christ back in Christmas is to be Christians in all of our actions, and in all of our lives, and not just on Sunday.

The scripture we read for this morning told once again of the visit from the Wise Men to pay their respects to Jesus Christ the babe of Bethlehem, and it is a wonderful story of gifts and giving. But the thing that is so often overlooked, is found in the 10th verse of this portion of scripture.

We read: "When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."



They were overcome with joy, for they knew they had reached the destination toward which they had traveled. That star had beckoned and shone for them, and had led them to where the actual source of that light was born. They ~~There is a light that comes from the East~~ came searching and found what they were searching for. Many others have searched and are still searching and are not aware of what it is they seek.

(Illustration 15 year old boy & poem written before suicide)

"The sky is blue and way too high  
I wish I could get beyond the sky  
There's things up there better than dope,  
Is there a chance, is there some hope?  
Stoned crazy I'm out of my mind  
I know there's something I can't find  
A home and love is that what I've lost?  
I've got to get there whatever the cost.  
Is there a ticket I need to buy  
To get off this earth and into the sky?  
I hear there's a god in that ocean of blue  
And he's calling and crying for me and you.  
Is there a ticket I need to buy to get off this earth and into the sky?

This poem was clipped from the Tampa Tribune recently. It was written by a 15 year old boy and was found on his dead body after he had hung himself from an oak tree 40 feet from his home. You can almost hear the screams of the young man as he was searching for something more in life than he found. He wondered if you could buy your way to eternal life. If he had only known it was free. Pat Kelley was 15 years old, and that's all he'll ever be."

Another young man who was 34 years old when he died of cancer in 1954 was a jazz musician. His name was Alfred S. Burt and each Christmas he would compose a Christmas Carol and he would send these to his parents as his Christmas Card from himself. Each year his carols are becoming more popular, but the one which he wrote, that I believe really speaks to us is entitled "The Star Carol."

"Long years ago on a deep winters night, high in the heavens a star  
shone bright.  
While in a manger a wee baby lay, sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.  
Jesus our Lord was that baby so small, laid down to sleep in a  
humble stall.  
Then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light round  
His little head.  
Dear baby Jesus how tiny thou art, I'll make a place for Thee in  
my heart.  
And when the stars in the heavens I see, Ever and always, I'll  
think of Thee.

Men came from the East seeking a king by following a star. ~~Another~~ A  
young man looked at the heavens and saw Jesus in the very stars themselves.

Another young man looked at the heavens and saw nothing. These are the "Songs In The Night," and in particular, "The Song Of A Star." This is the message that needs to be conveyed to a world that is caught up in all ~~the~~ of the hollow laughter and gaiety of a celebration that has become more of a holiday, than a Holy Day. This is the message that is binding upon each of us that we must share with the 15 year olds who are searching for life's answers. This is the message we must share with all of those of our day, who though surrounded by fun and games, are lost and alone. The message that, "Unto you ~~this day~~ has been born again this day, A SAVIOUR who is Christ the Lord."

The message that this Saviour's birth was heralded by a star, A star that when seen by men, "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." And that stars, on trees, in windows, in homes or churches should remind us of Jesus Christ. That we may come to the pointas that young man wrote in his Star Carol, "Then ~~in the heavens~~ the stars in the heavens I see, Ever and always I'll think of Thee," ~~Lord Jesus~~ That Lord Jesus may ~~shine~~ be the star shining in our hearts and the heavens of our lives.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Dec. 22, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODIE MARTE, TERRY MCCLIMANS - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION 11:00 A.M.  
PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE WORSHIP OF THE ANGELIC HOST" JAMES  
"IN DULEI JUBILO" PETHEL

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 108 "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*INVOCATION

\*PRAISE

\*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

\*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

\*DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2: 8-20

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

(ANTHEM BY YOUTH CHOIR) "THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY"-SIMEONE

ANTHEM: "HOLY NIGHT" WILSON - CHANCEL CHOIR

SERMON: "SONGS IN THE NIGHT: SONG OF ADORATION!"

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

COMMUNION HYMN No. 107 "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

\*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER \*INSTITUTION \*AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL

ALL ARE SERVED)

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 120 "JOY TO THE WORLD!"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

\*POSTLUDE "O THOU JOYFUL"

PRICE

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL USHER AND ALSO SERVE

COMMUNION.

ELDER AND MRS. CHESTER STAUFFER WILL REPRESENT  
COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. LINDA McMILLIN  
AND MRS. JANE ARMSTRONG.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. JAMES STEWART - ROOM 7311 - PRES. HOSP.

HOSPITAL - PITTS. (HE WILL BE COMING HOME THIS WEEKEND.)

THERE WILL BE A MEETING AFTER CHURCH FOR ALL THE BOYS  
WHO WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL.

TONIGHT - ANYONE INTERESTED FROM THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
AND YOUTH CHOIR IN GOING CAROLING - PLEASE MEET AT  
THE CHURCH AT 7:00. THEY WILL RETURN TO THE CHURCH  
AFTERWARDS FOR SOME WARM REFRESHMENTS.

TUES. EVE. - CHRISTMAS EVE. - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
AT 11:00 P.M. - HOLY COMMUNION. Mono/shep tale

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION  
TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.

PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S  
RECORDS ARE ACCURATE. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN THE  
RECEPTACLE ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS.

IF VISITORS WILL PUT EITHER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF  
THEIR CHURCH OR THEIR PASTOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS ON  
THE BACK OF THE COMMUNION CARD, IT WILL BE FORWARDED.  
THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 254.

YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTA AFTER THE 11 O'CLOCK  
SERVICE TODAY OR LEAVE IT AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO  
A SHUT-IN.

WE HAVE JANUARY 12, 19, 26; FEB. 2, 16, 23; MAR 2 OPEN  
FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - PLEASE LEAVE BEA KNOW TODAY IF  
YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF THESE SUNDAYS - THE  
FLOWERS ARE STILL \$8.00 - BECAUSE WE HAVE LADIES WHO  
WILL ARRANGE THEM.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR AND THE  
LAST CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR FINAL COMMITMENT FOR THE  
YEAR. THE CHURCH TREASURER'S BOOKS CLOSE AS OF DEC.  
31ST. AND EVERYTHING AFTER THAT DATE WILL BE CREDITED  
TO 1975. 1975

REV. AND MRS. COOPER WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE  
NICE PEOPLE THAT SENT CARDS AND WERE SO GOOD TO THEM  
- THEY WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS.

Welcome visitors/sign card/book

Thanks cards

SOME TAPES FROM ORDINATION ALBUM BLIE  
IF WANT SIGN UP.

But when angs depart they found selves alone 2  
They said, (vs 15b)  
They willing re-act 2 situation  
S we told (vs 16)  
& then not content just C, but must tell (vs 17)  
Went out & told events of nite  
(end result was (vs 20)

Could not remain mute  
had tell what overflowed harts & lives 2 overflow  
Altho they involv in event out of ordin,  
they still filled with wonder it all

Here group comm peop who privil B part mirac of G  
They involv in watt call mtn top exper  
yet with immensty & vast implies this act,  
& altho on plane far above their station life,  
they able come bak comm ordi level life &  
still give praise/glory 2 God

This the wonder it all  
That, unlike most peop who would resent be brot  
bak hum-drum comm work-day world, they continue  
look 2 G in praise

Perhaps this why G chose sheps B recipis this event  
thousands peop crowded Beth that pattic nite,  
all leftv Beth day or so never know what took place  
Many guests at inn, & left premis unaware earth  
shak event in stable in bak  
goodly portion from aristoc, peop welth/means  
But not them birth Js Xp revealed

Isa 53 asks, "AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD  
REVEALED?"

(m describ comm ord life Js 2 lead  
Any wonder then that comm ord Js revealed 2  
those peop 2 whom He could identify?  
But nother aspec this revel 2 B looked at &  
it pertain 2 His B shepherd also  
(Illustration John Darby & dying boy)  
this real signif revel 2 sheps at birth Js  
His birth herald 2 them 2 show here Good Shep  
Here 1 sent by G 2 seek lost sheep of world

This "Song In Night" sheps sang,  
"A Song Of Adoration"  
their harts filled wonders whown them Al G,  
& very possibly sang as we,

"come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord, TEXT.  
"AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING  
GOD FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND SEEN  
AS IT WAS TOLD UNTO THEM."

## "Songs In The Night: Song Of Adoration!"

Text: Luke 2:20,

"and the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising  
God for all the things that they had heard and seen  
as it was told unto them."

Scriture: Luke 2:8-20

(Illustration 1st grade class singing "While Shepher  
Watched Their Flocks By Night")

Much written/said bout sheps in Nat. story

4 scrip. red beaut story again  
visit Magi may B more vivid/thrill Bcause magnif  
presents brot

peop remem king visits Bcause most us awed royal  
We more accust common things life,  
so when royal mention we inquisitive live/act  
Lerner/Loewe misic Camelot, song "I Wonder  
What The King Is Doing Tonight"  
express comm peop pond ways royalty

4 sheer simplic, story sheps & involv in Nat tops  
rather signif we read story 2 know sheps mostly  
despised by ortho peop of day  
they unable keep minute ceremonial details of law  
" " observ rules/regul law impose on them  
" had B with flocks, constant look 2 needs  
Thus, orth look upon as common

Wm Barclay states: these sheps signif peop  
perhaps Temple sheps  
unblem lamb sacrif Temp morn/eve  
2 meet deman 4 pure unblem lams Temp auths had  
(m floks

These floks pastur near Beth  
This nesess Bcaus rich/lush gras grow there  
even 2day it grow same

Beth situat 5mi Jerus  
so likely Temp floks pastur there at Beth  
2 add 2 signif this story,  
wouldn't B approp 1's tend lams used Temp sacrif  
4, forgiveness sins, B among 1st 2 C Lam of G  
who take away sin of world?

If this case, we underst why sheps visited 1st  
news this birth

But must also observ altho sheps visited angel Lord  
they herd, "Glory 2 G hiest, & on earth peace  
good will 2ward men," they not overawed by it all.  
They much afraid & ritely so



"Songs In The Night: Song Of Adoration!"

Text: Luke 2:20,

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen as it was told unto them."

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

A first grade class was singing Christmas carols in school on the last day of classes before the Christmas vacation. The teacher was walking throughout the class while they sang, and she thought she detected the wrong words coming from a certain part of the room. So she had them sing the verse over again while she made her way to that part of the room. They were singing "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night," and sure enough, one little boy was singing, "While Shepherd Washed Their Socks By Night."

In our scripture this morning we read once again, the beautiful story of the visit to the shepherds by the angel of the Lord. This is perhaps the most widely quoted portions of the Nativity story. The visit by the Magi may be much more vivid in detail and much more thrilling because of the nature of the station in life held by these men, as well as the magnificent presents they brought. ~~But for sheer simplicity, the shepherd story is~~ People remember these kingly visitors because most of us are awed by royalty. We are more accustomed to the common things of life, and so when royalty is mentioned we are inquisitive as to how they live and act. In the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" there is a song entitled "I Wonder What The King Is Doing Tonight," which is an expression of how ~~the~~ the common people ponder the ways of royalty. But for sheer simplicity, the story of the shepherds ~~is the~~ and their involvement in the Nativity is tops.

It is rather significant when we read this story, to know that shepherds were mostly despised by the orthodox good people of the day. Shepherds were unable to keep the minute details of the ceremonial laws. They could not observe all of the rules and regulations and meticulous hand-washings that the law imposed upon them. They had to be with their flocks, constantly looking after their needs. Thus, the orthodox people looked upon them as being very common.

William Barclay states that he believes these shepherds were rather significant

people, for he reason they might have been Temple shepherds. An unblemished lamb was sacrificed in the Temple morning and evening. To meet the demand for pure and unblemished lambs, the Temple authorities had their own special private flocks. These flocks were pastured near Bethlehem. This would be necessary, because we are told that even today, there is rich lush green grass that grows abundantly in and around Bethlehem. Bethlehem is situated about 5 miles from Jerusalem, so it is quite likely the Temple flocks were pastured there. To add to the significance of this story, wouldn't it be appropriate that the ones who tended the lambs to be used in the Temple for the forgiveness of sins, would be among the first to see the Lamb of God Who take away the sin of the world? If this is the case, then we can understand why the shepherds were among the first to be visited with the news of this birth.

But we must also observe that although the shepherds were visited by the angel of the Lord, and they heard the angelic host praising God with Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," ~~and all of this~~ they refused to be completely overawed by it all. They were very much afraid we are told, and well they should have been. But when the angels had departed from them and they once again found themselves alone with their sheep, they said to one another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." They were willing to re-act to the situation, in other words.

So we are told they went to the stable and found Him lying in the manger as they were told it would be. But even with being told by angels, and then seeing it firsthand, they were not content to let it go at that, for they had to broadcast it for we are told, "And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child."

Thus they went out and told of ~~all this~~ the events of that night. The 20th verse of this portion of Scripture tells the end result of the visit of the shepherds to ~~visit~~ the Christ child. We read, "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."



They were not content to remain mute. They had to tell of the events of that night. Their hearts and their lives had been filled to overflowing by what God had done. Although they had been involved in an event out of the ordinary, they were still filled with the wonder of it all. Here was a group of common people, who were privileged to be a part of a miracle of God. They had been involved in what we would call a "mountaintop experience." Yet, with the immensity ~~of it~~ and the vast implications of this act, and although they were on a plane far above their normal station in life, they were able to come back to the common ordinary level and still give praise and Glory to God. This is the wonder of it all. That, unlike most people who would resent being brought back to the hum-drum, common work-a-day world, they could continue to look to God in praise.

Perhaps this is why God chose these men to be the recipients of this wonderful event. Thousands of people had crowded that town on that particular night. All of them had left Bethlehem either the next day or a day or so following, never knowing what had taken place there. Many of them had been guests at the inn, and had left the premises completely unaware that an earth shaking event had occurred in the stable in the back. A goodly portion of them were perhaps from the aristocracy, or were people of wealth and means. But it was not to them that the birth of Jesus Christ was revealed. The prophet Isaiah ~~asked the question~~ in the 53rd chapter asks the question, "And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" Then he goes on to describe the common ordinary life that Jesus was to lead. Is it any wonder then, that the common ordinary Jesus, was revealed to those persons to whom he could identify?

But there is yet another aspect of this revelation to common shepherds that needs to be looked at.

John Nelson Darby was a noted clergyman in Ireland. He was summoned once to see a poor boy who was dying. He told of having to walk for over an hour over b<sup>r</sup>oad roads to get to the house. He entered the miserable hovel they called a house and in the dim interior was unable to distinguish any signs of life. Then he noticed an old woman sitting on a stool and bent over the embers of a peat fire. He asked for the boy and she pointed to a darker corner of the room. He went to the corner and there on a heap of straw was a skinny boy of about 17 or 18. He had a very thin cover over him and very evidently was in

a state of extreme suffering and exhaustion. He appeared to be in the last stages of tuberculosis. Mr. Darby inquired as to his knowledge of God and his own relationship concerning his salvation. At first the boy did not respond, but then he uttered a few words in which he told how his mother had told him something of a God and a future judgement, but he had never been taught to read. His mind on the subject was a complete blank. Mr. Darby tells of being sick at heart and unknowing as to how to approach the subject with this mortally sick boy. He prayed that God would guide him so he could prepare this lad for eternity, if it was not too late already. He said he looked at the boy and with a sincere pity that he felt for him, he began by ~~saying~~ telling him, "My boy, you are very ill; I fear you suffer a great deal." The boy answered, "Yes, I have a very bad cough, and when I cough it hurts me so." "Have you had this cough long," Mr. Darby inquired? "Yes, almost a year now. It was about this time of year when one of my father's sheep went astray. My father keeps a few sheep on the mountain and this is how we live. There was snow upon the ground and my father told me one of the sheep was missing, and so I went to find him. I had a long way to go before I found it, but I never stopped until I got there. The sheep did not want to follow me back, and so I had to carry it on my shoulders all the way home. It took me the whole night to do this, and I was completely exhausted. It was then that I caught this cold. Mother tells me I will never get better now. But I guess God knows best, and anyway I did my best to save the sheep." And with this Mr. Darby was able to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ share the Gospel story of Jesus with this boy using Jesus as the Son looking for the lost sheep and God as the Father who sent Him to seek the sheep. The boy was able to understand ~~xxx~~ God's plan of salvation and accepted Christ as His Saviour, just before he died.

Now this is the real significance of the revelation to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus Christ. His birth was heralded to them to show that here was the good shepherd. Here was the one sent by God to seek the lost sheep of the world. This is the "Song In The Night" the shepherds sang, "A Song of Adoration." Their hearts were filled with the wonders shown them by Almighty God and very possibly they sang much as ~~xxx~~ we do, "O come, let us adore ~~xxxx~~ Him, Christ, the Lord." "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 29, 1974  
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST  
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
JODI MARTE, PATTY BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

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PRELUDE: "A CHRISTMAS PASTORALE"  
SILENT PRAYER  
\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 120 "JOY TO THE WORLD!"  
\*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
\*EXHORTATION  
\*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO PUTTEST INTO OUR  
HEARTS SUCH DEEP DESIRES THAT WE CANNOT BE AT PEACE  
UNTIL WE REST IN THEE! MERCIFULLY GRANT THAT THE  
LONGING OF OUR SOULS MAY NOT GO UNSATISFIED BECAUSE  
OF ANY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF LIFE THAT MAY SEPERATE US  
FROM THEE. OPEN OUR MINDS TO THE COUNSELS OF ETERNAL  
WISDOM; BREATHE INTO OUR SOULS THE PEACE WHICH PASSETH  
UNDERSTANDING. LET OUR HUNGER AND THIRST BE FOR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE FILLED WITH THE BREAD OF  
HEAVEN. O LORD, GIVE US GRACE TO SEEK FIRST THY KINGDOM;  
AND WE KNOW THAT THOU WILT ADD UNTO US ALL THINGS NEEDFUL.  
AMEN."  
\*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
\*PRAISE  
\*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
\*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE  
\*DOXOLOGY No. 551  
SCRIPTURE LESSON: II CORINTHIANS 5  
HYMN No. 102 "HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING"  
\*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)  
\*GLORIA PATRI  
\*CALL TO PRAYER  
\*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.  
\*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.  
\*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.  
\*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE  
FERING

OFFERTORY "IN HIS HOLY PRESENCE" CLARKE  
REQUIEM OBSERVANCE \*HYMN No. 418 "FOR ALL THE SAINT  
\*ANTHEM: "THE MAGI" WILSON SOLO - RICHARD BARTON  
SERMON: "WHOLLY, HOLEY!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 117 "O THOU JOYFUL"

\*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "WELSH NEW YEAR CAROL" ARR. SIMONE

-----  
\*CONGREGATION STANDING -----  
THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY  
MRS. BERNICE NICHOLAS IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND"  
SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALVIN TAIT, ROBERT  
STEWART, JAMES McCLYMONDS AND MIKE NAZARUK.  
MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT

THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS EVE. WAS 294.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HEGINBOTHAM #526; MRS. GRACE  
CHARLETON #627 AND MRS. DOROTHY NICHOLAS 267.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. PHILIP  
SNYDER AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE DEPARTED ST. PAUL'S  
DURING 1974.

MR. THOMAS RAIMONDI	MRS. MAE WEITZEL
MRS. MARGARET WEETER	MRS. HELEN LOUISE CUSTEAD
MR. PAUL HARPER	MRS. ANNA GRACE WILES
MR. CARL F. MILLER	MRS. RONALD ROTH (FRIEND)
MRS. GLADYS E. WINTERS	MRS. MABEL MOULDS (FRIEND)
MRS. BETTY JEAN FILSON	MISS ANNA A. BELL (FRIEND)
	MRS. IDA MAE EBERHART (FRIEND)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BOOKS WILL CLOSE AS OF DEC. 31,  
1974. ANY MONIES GIVEN AFTER TUESDAY WILL BE CREDITED  
TO 1975.

ALL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE REPORTS IN FOR YEARBOOK  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FOR 1975 - WE ARE INITIATING A PROGRAM OF READING  
THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR. WE WILL INCLUDE THIS  
MATERIAL WITH THE MAILING OF THE NEWSLETTER.

ORDINATION TAPES ARE AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$2.00  
EACH. ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE ONE - PLEASE LET US  
KNOW IN THE OFFICE. *JEFF STRAFFER WALKED ON THIS*

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR OPEN: JAN. 26; FEB. 2, 16, 23;  
MARCH 2.

Welcome visitors/sign card, book

"Wholly, Holey!"

Mark 2:21, object lesson

"NO MAN SEWETH A PIECE OF NEW CLOTH ON AN OLD GARMENT

ELSE THE NEW PIECE THAT FILLED IT UP TAKETH AWAY FROM THE OLD, AND THE TEAR IS MADE WORSE."

Js speak His, John, Pharisees disciples

" " unsanforized cloth

" say we "Wholly, Holey!"

New yr and resolutions

Scrip Paul wrote Corinthians, 5:17

"THEREFORE, IF A MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW

CREATION; OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL

THINGS ARE BECOME NEW."

If person become Xpian, he change, become different (illust Louis 16 France)

Predecess revolution, we revolu old/new

custom breed revolu

(illust buttons sleeves, cattle trail, streets)

Real change needed peop follow old customs

& ways, we afraid step out new direction

(illust. woman move Calif.)

woman all wrapped self

P say to Cor. Js say to Nico "Be Born again"

all old habits/traits in past, spiritual rebirth

peop say, "we know, U make sound easy preach"

Not easy, I fight battle all time too

(say not easy, narrow way

(illust B. Graham man extremes)

slip, fall many time, Js pick up, this "New CR"

Need call Js, not self-pity,

thus fight Satan & forces

(Illus Alex Gr. & soldier)

Anyone hate, call self Xpian, is not

" refuse give up old habits/haunts not

" no break with past not Xpian

" continue old ways that Unxpian, not Xpian

We may be "WHOLLY, HOLEY" but can become New Creatd

Must come to Js, cannot do otherwise

(Text from Cor.)

(Text from Mark)

TH burden is upon each of us,

"Fellow soldiers who call ourselves Christian,

We must either change our names, or change our

Conduct, & 75 is a good time to start.

"Wholly, Holey!"

Text: II Corinthians 5:17,

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Mark 2:21, "No man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment, else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the tear is made worse

2nd chap. Mark 21 object lesson

Js gave discs His/Jn/Pharis

(read text, rip jeans)

Js speak unsanforized cloth

But as did with jeans Js speak us as well

Pet sweater/jacket, patch/patch/patch

finally must discard

In scrip Js tell us we "Wholly, Holey!2

we need patch

Threshold new yr

peop draw resol 4 new yr

after wks/days old pattern life, & no better off

This Js say wen fruitless put patch garm

He no say throw away,

but implied in vs

Wen read Cor scrip read wat P wrote ,

we see P give solut prob sew patch old garms

In partic he give solut 17 vs (read text)

P say 1 Bcome Xpian he become diff/changed

(Illus. Louis 16th)

Unfortun 4 him ancestors left him revolu 2 reign

We revolu 2day,

(volu tween old/new

means we look new/old, make decis necess change

things 4 better

It is custom that breeds revolu

"We cannot try that, Bcause our cust do this way."

"we always done it this manner, & not about 2chang

(Illust. buttons on sleeve)

( " paths, crooked streets)

Real change needed in peop who fall age old cust

We reluc ch Bcause we like say, "we set in ways"

This untru, we no set ways, we merely unwill

step out new direc & 2 alter living

(illus. woman move Calif.)

Here woman wrapped in self/concern lonli her choos

will adjust new life

Only wen accident she found what took 2 change

she change life from lonli 2 one of happi



This wat P say Corinthians

2/

He tell them, any man calls self follow Js Xp,  
is new creation.

We change individ, new person

This Js say, "Be born again" to Nicodem

We mean person follower Him, he re-born spiritual

All we 4 old habits, haunts should be in past  
All old traits/sourness/bitterness/miserableness/  
fits anger/temper tantrums/vulgar lang/swearing  
obscenely/selfishness/envy/hatred/strife/greed,  
all should be done away with wen Bcome Xpians

But peop say, "Sure, preach we know,  
you make sound easy/looks good, but hard 2 do."

It not easy, & I never tell anyone otherwise

I fite contin battle my life overcome things of  
past, pet habits/peeves etc.

Even Js state not easy,

Narrow is the way leads everlast life

(Illust Man write Billy Graham tell beat up wife etc)

We know it not easy B complete new creations as

P said should and would

Slip & fall many times maybe,

But Js there 2 lift up & help us

This what mean "New Creation"

No longer need wallow self-pity wen things gloomy  
& looking down.

Need only call upon Js & He lift out despair

This why should read WORD of G daily

This why should pray constantly daily

From things of G, we gain strength fite Satan  
& his forces.

(Illus. Alexander Great & change self or name)

Any1 who hate others calls self Xpian, is not

" " refuse give up old ways & habits not Xpian

" " break with past not Xpian

" " continue, env/miser/vulgar/unforgiv/hateful  
etc, things UnXpian not Xpian.

We may be "WHOLLY, HOLEY" but can become new Creator  
But must come to Js, cannot do otherwise

"THEREFORE, IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW  
CREATION; OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL  
THINGS ARE BECOME NEW."

"No man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old gar-  
ment, else the new piece that filled it up taketh  
away from the old, and the tear us made worse."

The burden is upon each of us, "Soldiers, either  
change your names, or change your conduct," & 75  
good time to start.

"Wholly, Holey!"

Text: II Corinthians 5:17,

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Mark 2:21, "No man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment, ~~else~~ the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the tear is made worse."

Scripture: II Corinthians 5

In the 2nd chapter of Mark, the 21st verse, Jesus gave an object lesson to His disciples, ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> the disciples of John and ~~of~~ <sup>to</sup> the ~~pharisees~~ disciples of the pharisees. He told them, "No man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment, else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the tear is made worse." This is a lesson that we can prove just as I did with a pair of old blue jeans, or that we can prove with our lives. Most of us perhaps have a pet sweater or jacket and when it needs mending we patch it, but there comes a time when it can no longer be patched, but instead must be discarded. (In this scrip. Js is telling us indirectly, that we are "Wholly, holey," or completely and entirely full of holes that need patching.) We stand on the threshold of another new year. Most people look forward to the new year by looking back over their lives, and then determining to do better in the next twelve months. Many of these people will actually draw up a list of resolutions that they will strive to keep in the new year. But as is so often the case, after a matter of ~~weeks~~ or even only days, the same old pattern of life emerges and the person is no better off than he was the previous year. This is what Jesus is saying when He speaks of trying fruitlessly to sew new patches on old garments. He did not go on to say that we should discard the garment and throw it away. But I believe that it is implied in this verse, because He did not go on to elaborate how to mend that garment. But when we read what Paul wrote to the Corinthians in the portion of Scripture we read this morning, I believe that we can see that Paul is giving the solution to the problem of sewing patches on old garments. And in particular he gives the solution in the 17th verse, where he states, "Therefore, if any man ~~ixxi~~ be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."



Paul was saying that when one is a Christian, he is involved in being or becoming different from others.

The biographers of Louis the 16th of France wrote of him, "He was an amiable and upright man who would doubtless have made a good leader in a time of peace." But unfortunately for him, his ancestors had left him a revolution to reign in. And we are involved in a revolution today. A revolution that threatens us on all sides. It amounts to a revolution of the old and the new clashing in all areas of life. This doesn't mean that all that is new, is acceptable or good, nor does it mean that all that is old is the best for all. It does mean instead, that we look at new and old and make the decisions and judgements that are necessary to change things for the better.

It is custom that breeds revolution. "We cannot try that, because it is our custom to do it this way," someone says. Or, "We have always done it in this manner and we are not about to change," another one may say. If you men will look at the sleeves of your suti coats, you will notice one, two three, maybe four buttons there. Do you know why they are there? The reason is because in monasteries many centuries ago, the old monks had trouble eating their soup. With the loose sleeves in their robes, the sleeves often ended up in the soup, and so they sewed buttons on the sleeves to keep them out of the soup. Another story is that the troops of Napoleon had the sloppiest and dirtiest sleeves in their uniforms because they used the sleeves to wipe their runny noses in cold weather. Napoleon ordered buttons be sewn on the sleeves, the ~~unfi~~ buttons hurt a fellows nose if he tried to wipe it with his sleeves, and thus we have buttons on our sleeves today that serve no useful purpose.

We have all sorts of buttons left over from yesterday. Buttons that we do not need, that have become customs we have outgrown. Most of us have wondered sometimes how streets have gotten in a certain place. Many streets started out as a cattle path through a pasture, which became footpaths for men, and then a wagon ~~path~~ track, and then a road and finally, a city street. We speculate who could have laid out such a crooked meandering street, and we never face the fact that we are following the path of some dumb cow because of

custom. But the real change and the need for change is in the people who follow these age old customs.

But we are reluctant to change because we like to say, "we are set in our ways." But this is untrue, because we are not set in our ways, we are merely unwilling to step out in new directions and to alter our lives.

(Illustration of woman moving to California)

Here was a ~~we~~ woman who was all wrapped up in herself. She was concerned about her loneliness, her lack of friends,. The real problem was that she was unwilling to go out of her way to adjust to her new life. It was only when she found out by accident ~~that~~ what it took to change, that she was able to change her life from one of loneliness to one of happiness.

And this is what Paul was saying to the Corinthians. He was telling them that if any man calls himself a follower of Christ he is a new creation. He is a changed individual. He is a new person. This is also what Jesus was saying when he told Nicodemus that a man had to be born again. He meant that when a person becomes a follower of Him, he is reborn, spiritually. All of the love for the old habits and ways of the world should become things of the past. All of the old traits, the sourness, the bitterness, ~~misery~~ miserableness, fits of anger, temper tantrums, vulgar language and swearing, selfishness, envy, hatred, greed, all of these should be done away with when we become Christians. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour, our lives should become different.

But people say, "Sure, preacher we know that. You make it sound so easy, and it sure looks good, but it sure is hard to do and I find myself slipping back into the same old groove." It is not an easy thing, and I will never try to tell anyone otherwise. I fight a continuous battle in my life to overcome a lot of the pet peeves, and pet habits I have stored up in my lifetime. If anyone tells you it is easy, he is wrong. Even Jesus did not state that it was easy and simple, for he said narrow is the road that leads to everlasting life.



Billy Graham tells how a man wrote to him asking for help. The man said that every night he came home he beat up his wife and children. A man finally got through to him and advised him to reform and he did. Every night after that he came home and he hugged his wife and children so hard, he injured them as badly as he had before he reformed.

We know it isn't easy to change and be completely new creations as Paul said we would and should. But when we slip and fall again and again, Christ is there to lift us up and help us. This is what is meant by being a new creation. We no longer need wallow in the depths of our self-pity when things are gloomy and looking down. We need only call upon Jesus and He will lift us out of our despair. This is why we should be reading in the Word of God each day. For it is from the things of God that we ~~learn~~ learn to draw our strength for each day.

(Illustration Alexander the Great and unruly soldier)

Anyone who hates others and call himself a Christian, is not a Christian. Anyone who refuses to give up the old ways and habits of life, and calls himself a Christian, is not a Christian. Anyone who ~~is~~ continues to be envious, miserable, vulgar, unforgiving, or any other other things that are un-Christlike, is not a Christian. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Soldiers, either change your name, or change your conduct.













Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.